

MPs draft £3.3bn package to help long-term jobless

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

A radical £3.3 billion package of measures to tackle long-term unemployment, including a specific job guarantee, will be unveiled today by the Commons Select Committee on Employment.

The MPs' proposals, contained in a unanimous report, come only days after the announcement of Britain's worst jobless figures. Of those out of work, 1,500,000 have been unemployed for more than a year and count as long-term unemployed.

In a three-pronged attack aimed at achieving a job guarantee for such people, the committee recommends:

- A new building improvement scheme to provide 300,000 extra year-long jobs.
- The employment of 100,000 in the social services and the National Health Service.
- The introduction of a subsidy to private employers to take on 350,000 long-term unemployed in addition to existing employees.

The all-party committee also looked at the alternatives of tax cuts and increased public expenditure in dealing with high unemployment, but it concluded that special

employment measures were the "best buy" for the Government.

In particular the new measures are intended to lower the jobless figures in the short term in a cost-effective way, while other policies take effect and help them eventually to find permanent jobs.

The MPs envisage their proposals could be put into effect over three years and provide 750,000 extra places. The scheme should be run by the Manpower Services Commission, they say.

The proposed building improvement programme, which is similar to suggestions made by the Confederation of British Industry, would provide a wage of up to £105 a week. The MPs noted that many of the areas of highest long-term unemployment are also the most physically derelict.

It is estimated the new building jobs would cost between £4,000 and £5,000 a head.

With health and personal social services being labour intensive, the MPs recommended 50,000 long-term unemployed could be found work in each sector. Recruits

would be given a normal employment contract for one year and be paid at an average rate of £120 a week.

Lastly the committee suggests a subsidy of £40 a week to private sector employers who take on long-term unemployed. For £1.4 billion about 350,000 new jobs would be created, at a cost per job of £4,000.

The launch of today's report is likely to be clouded by the refusal of Mr Ron Leighton, the Labour chairman, to answer questions from News International journalists, as he is sponsored by the print union, Sogat '82.

● Fifteen hundred jobs at the Kent coalfield's three threatened pits could be saved because of a plan put to the unions yesterday (the Press Association reports).

The scheme lifted the closure threat over Tilmanstone colliery, after a significant rise in production figures.

In December the National Coal Board announced that another pit, Bettlesanger, had been reprieved. Now the board wants talks to extend the life of the third pit, Snowdown.

Counting the legal cost of divorce

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Divorced couples were warned by two Court of Appeal judges yesterday of the dangers of amassing a large legal aid bill by arguing in the courts over who should get what from the proceeds of a broken marriage.

The court was told the Legal Aid Fund has a prior claim on family assets and, at the end of the day, that can seriously deplete available funds.

The warning came from Lord Justice Purchas and Mrs Justice Butler-Sloss in a divorce case estimated to have incurred legal costs of about £23,000.

The divorced couple, who both received legal aid for their courtroom conflict, will have to reimburse the Legal Aid Fund, leaving them with less than half of the £43,000 in assets available at the time of the marriage break-up.

Lord Justice Purchas said the case was typical of many in which already-modest family assets were "seriously depleted" by the cost of litigation.

"It is imperative that litigants who receive assistance under the legal aid scheme

should fully understand the danger of this when deciding to pursue contentious matters", the judge said.

The judges upheld an earlier court ruling that Mr Keith Mason, a joinery manufacturer, of New Yatt Road, North Leigh, Witney, Oxfordshire, should pay his former wife, Jacqueline, of Woodside, North Leigh, an end-of-marriage settlement of £27,000.

They ruled that if Mr Mason cannot raise the money within six months, his house, the former matrimonial home valued at £53,000, should be sold to raise the money.

Settlement of the mortgage loan will leave about £43,000. But before the couple receive any money themselves, legal costs of £12,550 for Mrs Mason and £10,400 for Mr Mason will have to be paid.

Lord Justice Purchas said the judge who originally heard the case had commented that, if the parties had settled their differences, the sale of the house would have provided sufficient cash to comfortably reduce both.

Survey for the Briton on holiday

By Derek Harris

Most complaints about package holidays concern hotels but 94 per cent of British holidaymakers last year were prepared to recommend their hotel to family or friends.

Those findings emerged from a survey by Luan Poly, the travel agency chain which is part of Thomson Travel.

Holidaymakers were particularly concerned about food, the location, and whether the hotel staff were friendly and helpful. Britons preferred self-service meals and disliked sharing tables with strangers.

They also objected to dining room queues, the high cost of drinks in hotel bars, having to pay for hotel loungers, and did not favour entertainment that lasted beyond midnight in a hotel's public rooms.

The best hotels in the eyes of holidaymakers were not necessarily the high class ones or the most expensive, according to Mr John MacNeill, Luan Poly's managing director.

He said that some of the most highly rated hotels were in the budget category.

The study was made for the company's latest free Guide to Good Hotels.

M25 progress

The section of the M25 from Swanley to Sevenoaks will open on Wednesday, February 19, completing the southern ring around London and linking Heathrow and Gatwick airports to the Dartford Tunnel. The final section of the motorway, in Hertfordshire, will open in November.

No prosecution in police assault

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Metropolitan Police officers who assaulted five youths, two of whom needed hospital treatment, will not be prosecuted or disciplined.

Describing the attack by unidentified officers as "disgraceful", the Police Complaints Authority said yesterday: "Despite the most thorough investigation, it has not been possible to establish to the required standard of proof which of three Transit vans conveying officers in the area at the time was involved."

Because of the lack of proof of identity the Director of Public Prosecutions did not consider that criminal proceedings could be taken. Mr Peter Imbert, the deputy commissioner, said that for the same reason he did not propose to bring disciplinary charges.

At the authority's request, the officers on duty in all three vans in the area at the time, apart from two who have retired, were paraded before Mr Bob Innes, the deputy assistant commissioner.

The complaints authority said: "They were told in no uncertain terms of the anger and disquiet felt about the incident. They were told that although officers in only one of the vans were involved, all the officers in that van must have known what happened and both the public and the Metropolitan Police regard such actions as outrageous."

Also at the suggestion of the complaints authority, the police have agreed to clearly mark about 570 vehicles, including all Transit vans, for ready identification.

Two brothers, Baltimore and Eric Ranger, aged 16 and 17, who claimed they were beaten by between 10 and 12 uniformed police officers in the Holloway Road area of London in April 1983, received £4,000 in an out-of-court settlement last April.

£21m more to protect 9,000 poly places

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

The Government is expected to announce today that it may give an extra £21 million to the polytechnics to protect 9,000 student places which might otherwise have been lost.

That should give the polytechnics half of the extra £42 million which they say they need in 1987-88, a possible election year, to avoid losing 18,000 student places.

Mr John Bevan, secretary of the body, said that the extra money was not yet guaranteed.

can expect a 3.5 per cent increase in its funding for 1987-88.

Speculation on foreign control of vehicle makers

Morale crumbles in British car firms

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Months of speculation and rumour suggesting that BL's commercial vehicle operations are being sold to General Motors of America and that Honda Japan is about to buy a stake in Austin Rover cars are seriously undermining morale in both companies.

A Leyland trucks executive said yesterday: "The talks with GM have been dragging on for so long that people here are beginning to have doubts about their future yet again. We urgently need an announcement to put an end to this damaging speculation."

Austin Rover's worries are even longer standing. Since January 1985 when Honda bought a 330-acre site at Swindon there have been

persistent reports that the Government was encouraging Honda to acquire control of its state-owned car maker.

These reports intensified a few months later when leaks allegedly from the Prime Minister's office, raised doubts about Austin Rover's ability to survive without relinquishing large parts of its business to Honda.

Swindon is being developed as a Honda distribution and parts centre and rumours persist that it will eventually become a manufacturing plant.

In Tokyo yesterday Honda again denied that it had any plans to acquire all or part of Austin Rover.

A view being increasingly voiced at all levels in Austin Rover is that it has become an embarrassment to the Government, which is pledged to privatize it during

the present Parliament. The is not returning to profits fast enough to be sold on the open market like Jaguar, nor is it making such a hash of things that the Government has an excuse to close it down.

Seen against that background a takeover by Honda or even a substantial shareholding would seem to offer a way out.

Land Rover/Leyland, the commercial vehicle side, has been losing money for years. But more recently there have been some encouraging signs.

Leyland looks attractive to GM for two reasons. In recent years it has launched a complete new range of trucks at a cost to the taxpayer of £350 million. This contrasts with the out-dated range of trucks sold by Bedford, GM's European trucks subsidiary. Leyland has also recently



Mr Fox-Andrews half way to the top of the cathedral dome

Judicial steeplejack takes a look

A High Court referee scaled one of Britain's most distinctive cathedrals yesterday to inspect it.

Mr James Fox-Andrews, QC, is presiding over a dispute between the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of

Liverpool and the architects and engineers of the city's Metropolitan Cathedral.

The archdiocesan trustees have accused the architects, Frederick Gibberd and Partners, and the engineers Lowe and Rodin, of

negligence, alleging structural faults. Negligence is denied.

Yesterday Mr Fox-Andrews put on tennis shoes and an anorak to climb the 290ft cathedral. He picked his way nimbly along a 70ft-high platform which surrounds the

Deaf mute freed by tribunal

A man who is a deaf mute is to be released after a campaign to save him from indefinite detention in hospital for allegedly stealing £5 and three light bulbs.

Glenn Pearson, aged 33, spent a week in Lincoln prison before Christmas and was transferred to a hospital for the mentally handicapped after he was found unfit to plead.

Yesterday a mental health tribunal decided that he should be freed.

Under the law, the judge was forced to send him to a secure hospital indefinitely after the jury found him unfit to plead because he could not understand the court proceedings.

He was sent to jail because a place could not immediately be found but a judge later ordered that he be sent to a hospital for the mentally handicapped.

Protective wear for riot police

By Stewart Tessler, Crime Reporter

Police units facing rioting mobs may in future wear special padding over their limbs and face-guards similar to those used by cricketers after an internal Scotland Yard analysis of the Tottenham riot last October.

The report, based on interviews with 400 officers at the riot, suggests the Yard might also consider improvements in its riot training so that officers have a strategy for dealing with complex urban estates like the Broadwater Farm Estate where the riot broke out.

Most present training envisages handling mobs out in open streets and not on walkways or the pedestrian areas of tower blocks.

The report of more than 300 pages was prepared by Chief Supt David Williams, who worked alongside an observer from the Police Federation. The report partly sprang from strong criticism of police strategy at the riot by junior ranks in the aftermath of a disorder which left one constable dead and another 232 injured.

Unionists threaten boycott

Official Unionist MPs will withdraw from Westminster and return to Northern Ireland if the Prime Minister insists on going ahead with implementation of the Anglo-Irish agreement.

The protest action will begin if, at a meeting the two Unionist Party leaders have with Mrs Margaret Thatcher, she refuses, as is expected, to scrap the deal signed last year.

Mr James Molyneux, leader of the official Unionist Party, ended doubt about his party's position on a Commons boycott when he said yesterday: "If she continues to implement the agreement we would not be taking part in the general sense."

Flanked by Mr Harold McCusker, official Unionist MP for Upper Bann, who has already withdrawn from Westminster, Mr Molyneux said if the Government went ahead with the agreement, which gives Dublin a consultative role in the affairs of the province, "elected representatives become nothing more than a veneer."

Liverpool rates appeal begins in High Court

The 48 Liverpool councillors facing dismissal over the £106,000 bill for lost rates because of their alleged "wilful misconduct" launched their appeal for survival in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Stephen Sedley, QC, for the councillors, told Lord Justice Gidwell, sitting with Mr Justice Canfield and Mr Justice Russell in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court that the councillors had used their "honest efforts" to secure the three Es: economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources.

He said that Parliament could not have intended that to mean wilful misconduct.

Mr Derek Hutton, Liverpool's deputy leader, was in court as the appeal began against the decision of the District Auditor to make the 48 personally responsible for the shortfall caused by the delay in setting a rate.

Last week the judges reserved judgement in a similar appeal by 32 rebel Lambeth Labour councillors, said to owe more than £125,000.

Judgement in both cases will be given after the Liverpool case.

Among those in court to support the councillors were Mr Eric Heffer, Labour MP for Liverpool, Walton, and Mr Tony Mulhearn, the District Labour Party president.

Laity outside Church 'must not be ignored'

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Those outside the institutionally-minded or church-going community should not have their views excluded from the inner deliberations of the Church, the Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, said yesterday.

Addressing the centenary meeting of the House of Laity of the General Synod of the Church of England, Dr Habgood said they should not forget the "world-oriented Christians" who may simply be too busy to involve themselves in the Church's internal life, but who were the Church's "eyes and ears and hands".

He was speaking to an open meeting of the House, which is a direct descendant of the House of Laymen of the province of Canterbury, founded in 1886 after 30 years of discussion.

The open meeting was followed by a commemorative service in Westminster Abbey and a banquet, both attended by the Prince and Princess of Wales and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie.

Dr Habgood said those lay churchmen actively involved in the church's life and worship should not ignore "those whose primary vocation lies in their work and in their secular relationships."

Man charged with murder of hotelier

David Wyn Roberts, aged 31, of no fixed address was yesterday remanded in custody by Kendal magistrates, charged with the murder of Mrs Bronwen Nixon, a Lake District hotelier.

He was remanded until Friday when he will appear at Windermere Magistrates' Court.

Mrs Nixon, aged 66, was strangled in her cottage next to the Rothay Manor Hotel, Ambleside, on January 19.

Youth accused of Brixton riots killing

A youth of 18 was accused at Camberwell Magistrates' Court yesterday of killing David George Hodge, aged 29, a freelance photographer, who died from head injuries after last September's Brixton riots.

Erroy Palmer, described as a security officer, of Effra Parade, Brixton, was remanded in custody until February 19.



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Obstetrician exposed mothers and babies to danger, inquiry told

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Mrs Wendy Savage, the consultant obstetrician at the London Hospital suspended since last April over her handling of five childbirth cases, yesterday went on trial for her professional life.

Counsel for her employer, Tower Hamlets Health Authority, described her handling of one case as "bizarre" and said that she exposed mothers and babies to dangers that were "both real and not necessary".

Mrs Savage, aged 42, is facing a disciplinary inquiry under health service regulations on charges of professional incompetence over the cases which date back to 1983.

Mr Ian Kennedy, QC, counsel for the health authority, told the inquiry that the five cases included one stillbirth and one neo-natal death. The inquiry would be told that "both these sadesses could and should have been avoided".

Opening the case against Mrs Savage he said that "the management was outside all normal accepted procedures. It exposed the mothers and babies to risks which were both real and not necessary".

Mrs Savage's suspension has led to a campaign for her reinstatement backed by family doctors, national child-birth organizations, her medical students and others. But Mr Kennedy told the inquiry that only one side of the case had so far been heard.

"This case has been presented as if it were a contest between old and new, between a male medical establishment and a women-orientated movement; between the impersonal imposition of technology and the freedom of a woman to choose how, where and in what manner she will have her baby, and between the concept of a patient and the concept of a well woman."

The inquiry would not resolve those issues, he said. "The doctors who are her colleagues in no way criticize

or do not subscribe to many of the philosophies which Mrs Savage supports," he told the inquiry at Addison House, north London.

The issue was not about the principle but "how it is being put into practice in these five particular cases," he said. It is an inquiry not about theories but about dangers in obstetrics.

Normal obstetrics carried unavoidable dangers. But the virtual elimination of maternal death in childbirth and the still falling figures for neo-natal death were being achieved both by research and by technical advances which allowed doctors to identify the early warnings of danger before the fetus and mother were at risk.

Mr Kennedy acknowledged there were difficulties at the Mile End site of the London Hospital which meant that it took an hour to organize an emergency caesarian delivery. Unless and until that time lag was reduced, obstetrics had to be practised "in the knowledge that one must walk correspondingly further from danger".

It was not an answer to argue that in some of these cases no harm had been done. That was the argument of the driver rounding a blind corner on the wrong side of the road and the answer was

the same in both cases. In the case of the neo-natal death, he said, the course of management had been described by experts as "bizarre".

He also argued that Mrs Savage's belief in individual plans of management for each case of childbirth rather than an overall plan required that those plans had to be "very clear and very specific."

"In some of these cases the plans were neither clear nor specific," he said.

Mrs Savage sat calmly through the opening of the inquiry after being greeted by a cheering group of 50 supporters, including mothers with babies, at the council chamber of the North East Thames Regional Health Authority where the hearing, expected to last about four weeks, is being held.

Outlining the five cases, Mr Kennedy said that in one, identified only by the initials SP on the instruction of Mr Christopher Beaumont, the inquiry chairman, the patient spent eight hours in the second stage of labour in a pregnancy which was a breech presentation which ended in a caesarian section.

Expert witnesses had described the handling of that case as "inexcusable" and "not in any way acceptable".

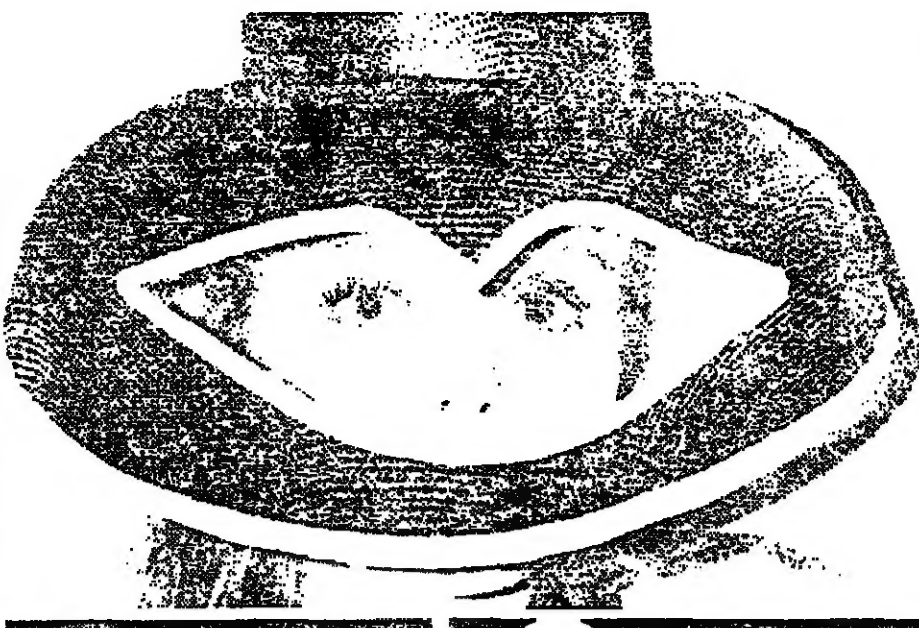
Mr Geoffrey Chamberlain, professor of Obstetrics at St George's Hospital, London, who had reviewed the cases on Mrs Savage's behalf, had said the handling of the case was "most unusual" and that it was "difficult to defend".

In the second case, where the baby was stillborn, the case was not suitable for "shared care" between Mrs Savage and the patient's GP, Mr Kennedy said.

The patient should have been admitted to hospital for care much earlier when it became clear, he maintained, that the baby was not growing properly inside the womb.



Mrs Savage arriving at the inquiry yesterday



With brimfuls of hearts, flowers and face (top). The straws are also made into tall pyramids, square boxes or a neat beret with a tail (right). Black and white is a favourite colour theme for perky uptitled hats or for jaunty bowlers. And any woman who wants to wear her heart on her sleeve can find scarlet hearts sprinkled on a straw cone (left). (Photographs: Harry Kerr)

Drive against child drinkers

Police launched a campaign against under-age drinking yesterday and said that they were ready to send plain-clothes officers into public houses to catch and prosecute landlords who serve the youngsters.

Devon and Cornwall police are taking action after reports of regular drinking by children as young as 11.

Discos, off-licences and supermarkets will also be watched.

Mr John Balding, of the Schools' Health Education Unit at Exeter University, said that a nationwide survey showed that 56 per cent of

boys aged 11 had admitted drinking alcohol in the previous seven days.

Of girls, 29 per cent had drunk alcohol during the same period.

Figures show that there is more under-age drinking in Scotland than elsewhere in Britain.

School bias cuts girls' chances, governors told

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Instead of widening opportunities for girls and boys, schools condone and exacerbate sexual inequalities, a Labour Party research document published yesterday says.

Fathers and male teachers should prepare and serve refreshments on prize days, the paper says, while mothers and women teachers make the speeches and look after financial matters. Similarly, girl pupils should show guests round the school, while boys present flowers to VIPs.

The 15-page document, which has been drawn by up Labour educationists, represents advice to Labour school governors rather than official party policy.

"Research shows that

though there is little difference in the actual ability of girls and boys, they are unintentionally treated differently in schools, not because of any difference in skill or aptitude but solely on grounds of their sex," the report says.

School text books give pupils a limited view of life in which women stay at home while the men go out to work, the document says. "Instead of widening opportunities for girls and boys, schools in the main condone and exacerbate social inequalities."

The paper particularly criticizes careers education because it says boys are introduced to more varied and better paid jobs than girls.

Parental control cuts crime by girls

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

More parental control is an important reason why girls generally commit less crime than boys, according to the latest Home Office research bulletin.

Parents' supervision influenced how girls spent their time away from home with friends. "Girls were less likely to go out to meet their friends in the evening and after going out were expected home earlier than boys. They were also less likely to spend their leisure time away from home."

Official statistics show that in the peak offending age group of 14 to 16 six indictable offences are committed by boys for every one by girls. But when

surveys are done of youngsters to see who admits crime, the ratio is 2:1 or even lower.

One recent study of those aged 14 to 15-year-olds and their parents showed that 49 per cent of boys admitted offending in the past year compared with 39 per cent of girls. But where there was equal opportunity to commit crime — such as with fare evasion, school vandalism, thefts from home and false emergency calls and graffiti — girls were as guilty as boys.

With group delinquency that occurs in a group, boys dominated in a ratio of 3:1. Examples were smashing bottles in the street, carrying weapons and breaking windows in empty houses.

Sinclair reduces TV prices

By Bill Johnston, Technology Correspondent

Sinclair has reduced by 20 per cent the price of its flat screen pocket television, which was launched 18 months ago and is still to prove a commercial success.

The price reduction is part of a new marketing deal struck between Sinclair and Timex, which manufactures the televisions.

The deal gives the manufacturer the worldwide rights to the marketing and distribution of the novel television set.

The television price reductions are the latest in a number of discounts that have been offered on Sinclair products. The television sets have had £20 taken off the £99.95 launch price. The flat screen television has not fully realized its promise although it was considered by Sir Clive Sinclair, its creator, at the time of launch to be revolutionary.

The television, Sir Clive maintained, would have as much impact on television viewing as the transistor had on radio. The launch 18 months ago was accompanied by much publicity and the disclosure of the company's plans to launch a special version for export to the US market.

Legion patient

An unnamed man is in Derriford Hospital, Plymouth, suffering from Legionnaires' disease. The man, in his forties, was admitted to hospital more than a week ago.

Exports up

British pottery exports to the United States exceeded £33.6 million in the first 10 months of this financial year, nearly twice the total exported in the same period last year.

Officers saved by police dog

A police dog gave its life saving police and security guards from two armed bank robbers, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

One robber shot Yerba, the dog, three times with a handgun as they were chased from Lloyd's Bank in Station Road, Petts Wood, Kent. The first bullet hit the dog between the shoulder blades and he fell bleeding but staggered up and went after the robbers.

The gunman fired again and shot the German Shepherd dog in the face. As Yerba tried to get up again a third shot killed the animal.

But the dog's bravery prevented Tony Baldessare, aged 45, from turning his gun on police officers and finally led to the capture of the two robbers, the court was told.

Baldessare had escaped with Patrick Murray, aged 40, after a car chase by police. Six months later detectives

trapped Baldessare in a house in Glenelton Road, Streatham, south London.

Police laid siege to the house and he dared them to join in a shoot-out, but he finally committed suicide with the revolver he had used to kill Yerba, Mr Paul Furnell, for the prosecution, said.

Murray was captured at Gatwick airport as he tried to flee to Spain.

Murray, of Windmill Walk, Lambeth, south London, was jailed for 12 years. He pleaded guilty to attempting to rob the Petts Wood bank in August 1984 and robbing two other banks of £32,000. He also admitted having an imitation firearm.

After the trial the judge commended all the officers involved in the robbery's capture and the courage of Yerba, who has a plaque marking the spot where he died.

Dispute over custody of addict baby

A girl, aged 11 months, who was born a drug addict, was at the centre of a legal dispute in the High Court yesterday.

The girl became addicted to the drug while in her mother's womb. By the time she was three weeks old she was seriously ill and showing signs of withdrawal, Mr Christopher Crichtlow, for the baby's guardian, said.

He was appearing in an appeal before two Family Division judges, Mr Justice Hollings and Mr Justice Waite, against the care order.

Crown yields in murder case appeal

The Crown yesterday made a concession in an appeal by Ernest Clarke, aged 55, who was jailed for life in 1980 for a murder of a girl he says he did not commit.

After Court of Appeal judges and barristers had adjourned for a private showing of a BBC *Rough Justice* television programme, Mr Brian Walsh, QC, announced that the prosecution accepted that clothing found near the body of Miss Eileen McDougall, aged 16, in South Shields, Tyneside, did not belong to her.

The clothing was said by Clarke's lawyer to be the most damning piece of evidence against him.

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Channon pledge on Leyland trucks

INDUSTRY

While no decisions had been reached in the talks between British Leyland and General Motors, any deal to be reached, GM would give full undertakings that the majority of vehicles sold by the businesses involved would be manufactured in the UK, Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, declared in the Commons.

He added that the products would continue to have a high local content and there would be a substantial level of exports. Research and development facilities would be maintained and developed in the UK. Land-Rover would retain the business to achieve competitive future models and facilities.

If these talks were to come off (he went on) it would be Government's aim to make sure that the jobs and future of Land Rover and other companies would be more secure, not less. That is what we are fighting for: to get a viable industry that will be secure in future.

He was replying to a private notice question from Mr John Smith, chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, who feared a surrender of crucial British interests. Mr Channon told the House that with the approval of the British Leyland board, discussions were in progress between BL and General Motors with the aim of creating an internationally competitive vehicle commercial vehicle industry. The talks covered Leyland Trucks, Land-Rover, Freight Rover and certain related overseas operations.

Mr David Maw (South, Conservative) said that General Motors had a long and distinguished history of supplying defence equipment for Britain's needs.

Mr George Park (County North, East, Labour) said a recent Conservative motion paid tribute to the workers and management of Leyland. Did Mr Channon imagine that any announcement by him would be a comfort to the workforce to realize their future is likely to be secure. Mr Park suggested that the well over £2 billion had been pumped into British Leyland in the last few years.

Mr John Carlisle (Luton North, Conservative) said Leyland had an excellent record and he had every confidence that if the merger took place it would be of benefit to all the workers.

Mr Channon said he welcomed his support.

Mr Alan Beith (Berwick-upon-Tweed, Labour) said one of the duties Mr Channon had taken over was to ensure a viable British-owned motor industry. Was the Government's policy now one of selling off job lots for the American market?

Mr Channon: What I am seeking to do is to try to create the conditions in which these companies will be able to have a more secure future than they have had in the past and where people will be able to look forward with confidence to the future of their companies. I would not have let talks proceed unless there were substantial assurances to that effect.



Channon: No decision yet.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Wokingham, Labour) asked if this was not another example of dropping the Union Jack and raising the Stars and Stripes over British industry. Had not this American corporation already made it clear that they did not want Leyland Buses and if that was the case what was going to be done with them?

Mr Channon said separate discussions were taking place with the Laird group about the future of Leyland Buses. He would have thought that Mr Campbell-Savours would have welcomed that.

Dame Jill Knight (Birmingham, Edgbaston, Conservative) said the future of scores, if not hundreds, of small businesses in the West Midlands depended entirely upon their ability to provide British Leyland with parts. Could the House be certain that their future was being considered in any arrangements that were to be made?

Mr Channon replied that he had the point very much in mind.

Discussions were at an advanced stage but a number of important issues remained to be settled. As for other British Leyland businesses, it remained policy to return them to private ownership as soon as practicable.

Talks with other car manufacturers were in progress but some were at an exploratory stage and it was too early to tell whether it would lead to a stake, acquisition or merger.

Mr John Smith said the statement revealed things were at an advanced stage yet up till now the House had been told nothing. It confirmed fears expressed the previous day by Mr Roy Hattersley, the shadow Chancellor.

It was appalling that the Government was willing even to contemplate the disposal of the largest part of the British truck and bus manufacturing industry to an American competitor. In October Mr Leon Brittan, the previous Secretary of State, had said that despite lengthy discussions General Motors were not ready to prove they were a British car producer.

Was there no part of British industry safe from the destructive performance of this Government?

Is there (he asked) anything that is not for sale? Will he confirm there is a team from General Motors currently within Leyland doing a detailed dossier on the business?

The purpose of GM in buying Leyland would be to buy out the British market share and get their hands on modern facilities provided on a public financial basis at a cost of £320 million.

Would there not be large job losses at Bedford as well as Leyland. What was the estimate of the number of jobs lost?

What future would there be for Land Rover and Range Rover? Would not the job lot disposal of this prestigious British product be seen at home and abroad as a dreadful and shameful retreat. Was it not a sad day that a British Government could even think of such a thing.

If the deal went ahead was it not the case that the British armed forces would have no British supplier of vehicles on which they could depend. Could the Government explain why all other countries in Western Europe wanted to stay in this industry but this Government did not?

What protection would there be for independent British research and development?

This episode was typical of the Government's industrial policy involving the destruction of jobs.

Mr Channon said he strongly refuted most of what Mr Smith had said. No decisions had been reached in the talks between British Leyland and General Motors. When firm conclusions were reached he would make a full statement to the House.

Attorney rejects claim

There was no truth at all in the Labour allegation that Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Solicitor General, had been used by the Prime Minister in a way against Sir Michael Heseltine. Sir Michael Heseltine, the Solicitor General, said to Labour protesters during Commons questions on the inquiry into the leak of the letter sent by the Solicitor General to the Mr Heseltine on the Westland affair.

He said he could not give a Conservative backbencher an assurance that the practice of government using leaks by public servants would cease. There had not been any leaks in his department while he had been in office. Leaking of any kind was deplorable.

The Attorney General said that the two letters from the Solicitor General to the then Secretary of State for Defence, dated January 6 and January 7 this year, which had been placed in the library of the House, revealed that advice was given by the Solicitor General on December 31, 1985 and on those two days.

In accordance with the convention on law officers' advice (he continued) I am not prepared to disclose if I or the Solicitor General was asked to give legal advice on the

proposed financial reconstruction arrangements for Westland plc on any other occasion.

Mr Jack Straw (Blackburn, Labour) the leader of the Opposition, said that the Solicitor General's letter, the Prime Minister had admitted to the House that at least by January 7 she was told in general terms that there had been talks between her own office and the Department of Trade and Industry in advance of the leak.

Did the Prime Minister at any time (that is what she told us on January 23) between January 7 and January 23, share this general knowledge with the Cabinet or the Solicitor General or, if so, on what date?

Mr Michael Havers: The only time I had any communication with the Prime Minister was on January 22 when the Secretary of State gave me an outline of his report.

Mr Jeremy Hare (Harrow, Conservative) said that the Prime Minister's policy of only obeying those laws which it finds advantageous to itself. They have said numerous times that they were in a position of question, about advice between the law officers and members of the Cabinet, is a matter which is forbidden territory.

Sir Michael Havers said he agreed it was a long convention that neither the fact of the advice nor the contents is disclosed.

Mr John Morris, chief Opposition spokesman on legal affairs, said that the Attorney General's letter to the House on January 16 that an internal inquiry into the leak was still a considerable way from being completed, was he aware that it was an inquiry into an official leak, and legal advice was he then tendering?

Was not the department consulted as to the proposed use of the Solicitor General's letter, or, if so, on what date?

Are there precedents for law officers' letters being used as weapons for publicising ministerial colleagues?

Sir Michael Havers: Having consulted the Secretary of the Cabinet and expressed my view that it was essential that a leak inquiry should be set up, I did not know any more about that inquiry until I was informed of the results, first in summary form and then being provided with the actual document on January 22, the same day as it was given to the Prime Minister.

On leaving, I have nothing really to add.

British Leyland

Teachers' dispute

More money for BR to extend rail tracks

CHANNEL LINK

The Government's White Paper on the Channel link was published yesterday (Tuesday) and from that would be discovered best guesses about extra employment and where it would fall.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, said during Commons questions.

It would be said, for the many industrial companies in the Midlands and North to make sure they won the contracts when they were put out to tender. The Government recognised that British Rail would require a higher level of external finance than would otherwise be the case.

Some £700 million or £800 million of railway investment would flow from the decision to build the Channel Tunnel Group scheme. The railway workshops were in the North and Midlands and jobs would go to those areas.

Later, Mr Ridley confirmed that British Rail's external finance limits would need to be set far enough ahead for everyone to see what was happening to the development and extension of services in the south-east, the north and in Scotland.

He also gave an assurance that the finance limits would be expanded to take account of British Rail's needs in the light

of the Channel fixed link, and that BR's other requirements would not be curtailed.

Mr Jonathan Aitken (Thanet South, Conservative) said Mr Ridley had previously given the impression that he would not allow taxpayers' money to be spent on the Channel project.

Since then, and today, he had given a different impression of expanded finance limits and railways for the north. There was a danger of schizophrenia here (Laughter).

Mr Ron Lewis (Carlisle, Labour) said Mr Ridley had suggested the fixed link was going to mean extra funding for British Rail. Is that the case? Why Mr Ridley was so opposed to the scheme originally?

Mr Ridley: I was opposed to the scheme 11 years ago, because it was to be paid for by taxpayers' money for construction. Therefore, it will not be at the expense of other Government programmes.

He also said he had always made it clear that the Government would accept essential road links and railway investment resulting from the fixed link, just as the Government accepted the need to build roads and railways in any new port, town or factory where traffic justified an increase in infrastructural investment.

Government concern at EEC budget

MPs could not draw a parallel in debate between the British court cases of Liverpool and Lambeth councillors in respect of disputed budgets and the positions of members of the European parliament.

It was the result of the contentious EEC budget approved in December. This was said by Sir Paul Dean, the Deputy Speaker, after two Labour and two Conservative MPs had raised points of order at the beginning of a speech by Mr Peter Brooke, Minister of State, Treasury, on supplementary estimates for 1985-86.

The Deputy Speaker ruled that MPs must abide by the precedent that they could not say anything that might prejudice a case before the British courts had decided upon it. This did not apply in international cases, such as the one involving the EEC budget, which would come before the Euro courts.

Mr Brooke said the Government took an extremely serious view of the European Parliament's approval of a

budget amounting to some £400 million above that agreed by the Council of Ministers. Until the differences were settled, the Government would pay in full, on a without prejudice basis.

Mr Brooke was continually interrupted by Conservative backbenchers who wanted to know why the Government was going ahead with paying the disputed money to the EEC Commission when the matter was before the courts.

He told them that even if the Commission spent the money a most important battle would have been won in terms of establishing where the power lay between the European Parliament and European Council (Laughter).

The Council was taking legal action against the European Parliament and the British Government was also doing so.

Peers seek assurance on Sadler's Wells

HOUSE OF LORDS

It would be a disgrace if a theatre and historic and nationally important building like Sadler's Wells were allowed to close for lack of adequate funding, peers said during question time in the House of Lords.

Lord Belstead, the Government spokesman, answering a question on Government plans to assist the theatre, said: This is a matter for the theatre itself and for the Arts Council which has been asked to replace the GLC funding of Sadler's Wells.

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Lord Belstead: The theatre does play a vital part in the cultural life of London and the nation. It is essentially a matter for the Arts Council to work out the possibilities in consultation with Sadler's Wells and other interested parties.

Lord Jenkins of Fawley (Labour): The theatre is in a financial position. It will have to close on May 17 unless something is done.

Lord Belstead: Consultations are going on with a view to securing the future of buildings outside Greater London. I believe it is going to be possible to find a solution within Greater London.

Lord Strathclyde (Labour): There is a shortfall of £10 million between what the Government is giving and what the GLC gave before.

specifically for post-abolition funding has taken account of this.

Lord Nugent of Guildford (Conservative): The theatre is of historic and nationally important and the opera and ballet has made an outstanding contribution to our national life.

While I normally sympathise with government policy of leaving the Arts Council to make its own judgment about distribution of the very large funds provided from the Government, the Arts Council can be capricious about its grants sometimes.

Because it is vital that adequate funding be provided to keep the theatre open, would the Government reconsider giving the Arts Council some firm advice about grants to Sadler's Wells?

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Joseph asks all teacher unions to join talks

EDUCATION

Although the biggest teachers' Union, the National Union of Teachers was not a party to the provisional agreement to end the year-long dispute in schools, the Government hoped all the unions in the profession would join in the talks that lay ahead for 1986.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said in a Commons statement.

Mr Giles Radice, chief Opposition spokesman on education, said Sir Keith Joseph and the education department had done nothing to help bring about a settlement of this highly-damaging dispute. The statement did nothing to make a long-term settlement more likely.

The Secretary of State had not offered local education authorities any extra money to help pay for a provisional settlement, nor a government contribution towards a longer-term settlement next year.

When would the Government accept a simple truth: that raising educational standards and giving teachers decent salaries required substantial extra investment?

By announcing he would not be seeking re-election as an MP, Sir Keith had been transformed overnight into the latest of lame ducks (Conservative protests).

If he really cares about education he should announce he is resigning as Secretary of State.

Joseph: Teachers deserve more

Sir Keith Joseph said teachers deserved more pay, so that the right people could be recruited, retained and motivated.

But it would not be right to pay out more public money without an agreement over a new pay structure and an acceptance by the teachers' unions of duties.

Mr Radice was active in accepting pay for teachers, but would not accept that teachers' duties were a necessary part of the bargain (Cheers).

Mr Alan Haselhurst (Saffron Walden, Conservative) said that complete resolution of this dispute it is crucial that the rank and file teachers should be

persuaded to accept the outline of the ACAS agreement.

Sir Keith Joseph: It is important that teachers in the unions should understand what is on offer and that the Government has already set aside a substantial sum of money to be released on condition that the bargain to which I have referred should be made.

One of the unions has already called off disruption; another union is balloting its members now - and we understand that will take much of this month.

I very much hope that the NUT, which has called off the strike on which it provisionally decided, will also decide to call off the disruption.

Mr Clement Freud (North East, Conservative) said: The more intransigent he is, the more success he gives to the hardline unionists.

Sir Keith Joseph: If we had not been firm in saying extra pay for teachers would only be forthcoming from the taxpayer if, in return, they accepted duties and a new pay structure and extra promotions, we would not even, I believe by now, have got the discussion on that bargain on the agenda.

Mr Patrick Thompson (North, Conservative) said: I join him in deploping the damage done to our children's education by this long-running dispute. We must somehow find a way of encouraging those moderate and conscientious teachers, who dislike immensely the strike weapon and, in many cases, have rejected it.

Cannot we in the longer-term move towards some kind of professional teachers' council and a situation where we can actually negotiate a no-strike agreement?

Sir Keith Joseph: I agree in paying tribute to all those teachers and particularly heads who have carried on without disruption.

I stand ready to support the idea of a general teachers' council, if that were the wish of the majority of teachers, but I would need to be convinced first that a general teachers' council would really operate on behalf of the children as well as taking an interest in teachers.

Mr John Thompson (Wansbeck, Labour) said: Even if there is a settlement, normal working in schools, as we recognise it, before the dispute, will not come back again. Teachers are specifically resisting the demands for resuming out of school activities.

Sir Keith Joseph said things would return to normal, except that the Government was now financing midday supervision by separate means and asking for appraisal to be considered as part of teachers' duties.

Mr Robert Key (Salisbury, Conservative) said: The majority of teacher unions are prepared to talk about restructuring and conditions of appraisal. The one panel being established would be the son of Burnham as an embryo future negotiating body.

Sir Keith Joseph: Burnham is needed under the law to validate and implement any agreement made under the ACAS umbrella.

Law on age to remain

The Government was not prepared to introduce legislation making age discrimination illegal, Lord Young of Gifford, Secretary of State for Employment, said during question time in the House of Lords.

He told peers: I am deeply concerned that skill and experience should not be wasted, but to seek to interfere in employer's decisions about whether, in their particular circumstances, to recruit an older or a younger person, would run counter to the Government's policy of reducing the administrative and legislative burdens on business in encouraging the provision of jobs for people of all ages.

Tube crime report soon

More measures to protect women travelling on public transport were called for by Ms Jo Richardson (Barking, Labour) during transport questions in the Commons. She said a GLC survey showed that more than 75 per cent of women travelling at night and more conductors and staff were needed as machines could not respond to cries for help.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, said a study of crime on the London underground, which covered the safety of women was expected to report by the end of July. His Department has also set up a working group to examine violence on the buses which would be reporting shortly.

Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

How far are members of the House of Commons defence select committee justified in demanding that Civil Servants should give evidence on the leak of the Solicitor General's letter? The question needs to be asked not only by those who wish to preserve the Government from further embarrassment but also by those who are concerned that individual Civil Servants should not be placed in a false position.

It might be argued that this committee is rather stretching its field of responsibility in inquiring about the leak. As it occurred in the Department of Trade and Industry, should this line of questioning not be left to that committee?

But it is relevant to defence policy whether the Government has conducted itself properly over Westland, and it was the Government that suggested that the committee should examine the saga. So I do not think it would be wise to be fastidious on that point. But is it unfair to bring Civil Servants into it? Two arguments can be advanced against doing so, one constitutional and the other a consideration of personal justice.

The convention has always been that it is for ministers to take responsibility for what happens in their departments. That convention was set out explicitly by the Cabinet Secretary, Sir Robert Armstrong, in his memorandum last year on the duties and responsibilities of Civil Servants: "It is the minister who is responsible and answerable in Parliament for the conduct of the department's affairs and the management of its business."

The Civil Servant does not have a constitutional personality or responsibility separate from his minister. That is why in the past ministers have resigned when Civil Servants have erred.

That convention should not be lightly cast aside. It is in particular necessary to preserve the ability of Civil Servants to offer confidential advice to their minister. Otherwise the pressures of them to be cautious will be even greater than now.

But it is the Government which has disregarded the convention by publishing the official record of Mr Brittan's meeting with Sir Raymond Lygo, by naming officials who could support Mr Brittan's recollection of that meeting, and now by putting part of the blame for the leak upon misunderstandings between officials.

The committee has been left with no alternative but to question officials if it is to find out what went wrong. The only other option would be for senior ministers to appear as frank and forthcoming witnesses themselves. There is constitutional logic in Dr John Gilbert's suggestion that the Prime Minister herself might give evidence.

But that idea should be seen at this stage as no more than a political signal to the Government that the committee will not be satisfied unless other witnesses are more helpful than Mr Brittan was on his later appearance last year. It is not only the Labour members who are determined not to be fobbed off.

The committee can afford to take a strong line in this instance without fear of impairing the principle that advice should be confidential. It is the actions of officials, not their advice to ministers, that is at issue.

But there is still the risk of officials being placed in an awkward position. The rules governing their conduct before select committees instruct them not to be forthcoming about "the level at which decisions were taken or the manner in which a minister has consulted his colleagues". But just how certain decisions were taken is precisely what the committee want to know.

Because there is obviously a danger of officials being caught between conflicting requirements that is the stage at which certain principles should be set out. Except in so far as they may already have been granted immunity, officials should be liable to disciplinary action for any personal misconduct over the leak. But they should not be penalized for the evidence they give to the select committee.

I see no reason for the committee to be inhibited on that score. Its task is to conduct its inquiries as well as it can. It is to their Civil Service and ministerial superiors that officials should look for the professional protection they deserve.

Police drug team network delayed by cash problems

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Plans for a national network of detective teams specializing in big drug cases have been delayed by problems over the scheme's financing.

After six months the teams are now unlikely to start until the new financial year at the earliest.

The network was announced last summer as part of a government strategy for fighting drug trafficking and dealing. More than 220 detectives would be drafted into the nine regional crime squads which cover Britain to form a total of 17 "drug wings". The teams would cost a total of £5 million to £10 million a year and are

seen as a key component in the police effort against drug abuse.

But the teams were announced halfway through the financial year, which left financially stricken local authorities with fresh problems. The Home Office will pay half the cost of the teams but local authorities have found difficulty finding their share.

Astoria halls draw up budgets for the new financial year, police are trying to find out what will happen to the teams. The Association of Chief Police Officers is surveying all chief constables to see how plans for recruit-

ing the teams have progressed.

No one yet knows which of the English or Welsh regional crime squads will start teams. The Scottish police are expected to start this summer in a staggered arrangement which will also be used across the border.

Next month representatives of county and metropolitan authorities are to meet Home Office officials to discuss problems in setting up the network. The authorities agree with the Home Office about the seriousness of the drug problem but are worried about cost.

Heart link check on cot deaths

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

Research is being launched into the links between heart defects in babies and cot deaths.

An investigation into the causes and nature of damage to the heart muscle in

newborn and young infants and its relationship to sudden infant death syndrome will be carried out at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford.

Dr Helen Porter, of the Nuffield department of pathology at the hospital, will conduct the project, funded

by the British Heart Foundation.

The charity is also funding research into "hole in the heart" congenital defects at the Institute of Child Health at Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool. The grants are two of nine worth £144,837 by the foundation.

Elgar song found in drawer

An unpublished manuscript by Edward Elgar, the composer, has been found after lying in a desk drawer for 40 years.

The folded folio sheet bears the words "music of an undergraduate's drinking song" were autographed by the composer in June 1924.

Covered by old newspaper cuttings, Christmas cards and family documents, they were only revealed when Mrs Jane McInnes, aged 55, of Richmond Park Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, was persuaded to have a closer look.

Mrs McInnes, who was paid a four figure sum, handed over the four sheets at her home yesterday to the Elgar Foundation.

For years the foundation have had a rough pencil sketch of the song - without being able to compare it to a full manuscript.

Mr Wulstan Atkins, aged 81, the godson of the composer and chairman of the foundation, said: "It's a wonderful find. We believe it was the last unpublished manuscript of Elgar's still 'undiscovered'."



Mrs Jane McInnes holding the autographed Elgar manuscript - "music of an undergraduate's drinking song."

Pop music publisher dies at 65

By David Hewson

Dick James, the music publisher, died of a heart attack on Saturday, two months after losing a court case brought by the musician, Elton John, who could cost his company up to £5 million. He was 65.

Mr James was one of the most successful publishers of the pop music boom. A singer by profession - he recorded the theme music for the 1950s television series *Robin Hood* - he was a key figure in the growth of Northern Songs, which published the Beatles, and later formed his own company, Dick James Music.

Last November DJM lost a case brought by Elton John and his songwriting partner, Bernie Taupin. Mr Justice Nicholls said that Mr John and Mr Taupin had been deliberately underpaid while they had been employed by DJM with whom they signed a publishing, recording and management agreement in 1967 when they were "young and inexperienced".

Obituary page 14

Aden carnage survivor tells of party leaders' execution

From Robert Fisk, Aden

Ali Salem al-Bedh sat on a low sofa, grinning and constantly clutching a brown walking stick in his left hand. Where was he wounded, we asked, and he grinned, pulled up his shirt and patted the blue T-shirt which covered his stomach.

It was, in fact, a little worse than that. Ali Salem's would-be assassin had shot him in the thigh and lower abdomen after the original murder attempt at the Politburo on January 13.

He had escaped President Ali Nasser Muhammad's South Yemeni Politburo liquidation with two colleagues, Abdul Fatah Ismael — one of the leading figures in the anti-British struggle of the 1960s — and Salem Saleh Muhammad, a secretary of the Central Committee. All three, he said, had been rescued by the Army. But where, we asked, was Abdul Fatah Ismael now?

"I withdrew with him (after the shooting) at 7 o'clock on January 13," he said. "But I escaped on one

tank and he escaped on another."

All that is known, therefore, is that Mr Ali Salem and Mr Salem Saleh Muhammad are the sole surviving members of the old 11-strong Politburo in Aden and the only ones wielding power. Three were killed on January 13, four fled with Mr Ali Nasser Muhammad, and one, Mr Abdul Fatah Ismael, is missing.

Mr Ali Salem al-Bedh sipped a glass of water on his sofa. He liked to talk about his life. He was 46, married with eight children, himself "a struggler" in the war against the British. A Hadramaut man with long, dark hair, he smiled a lot.

Did the foreign journalists have any questions? There were a few. Were these battles in Aden not, perhaps, just tribal warfare? Ali Salem chuckled softly at so preposterous a notion.

"The fact is," he said, "that Ali Nasser did not believe in socialism."

"Our differences with him

were well known — there was tension even before the third conference of our party. For the sake of the national interest, we tried to sacrifice so many things for unity. But who would have thought Ali Nasser would try to kill us?"

Ali Salem chose not to elaborate on just what the "tensions and differences" were with Ali Nasser — "ideological, social questions," he would only say, but he insisted that "the Soviet stand is with the Yemeni Socialist Party."

As for Mr Ali Nasser Muhammad, Ali Salem evinced astonishment that the former President could even contemplate the murder of his party colleagues. "It was a crime against the party and the reputation of our revolution," he said.

But had not Ali Nasser been elected by the party? Had he not been Prime Minister as well as President — and for a long time? "That was our mistake," Ali Salem replied. And this time, he did not smile.

Party officials accused

Moscow steps up corruption war

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

There are increasing signs that the Kremlin's new drive against corruption, inefficiency and excessive secrecy in Soviet public life is being intensified in the run-up to the crucial 27th Communist Party congress which opens here on February 25.

Reporting the local party congress in the southern Soviet republic of Azerbaijan, the official party newspaper *Pravda* yesterday disclosed that Mr Farhad Sahmanov, the republic's former minister for the cotton-cleaning industry, had recently been brought to trial on charges of corruption and misuse of power.

Mr Sahmanov, who was sacked as minister last December after holding the post for five years, was one of a number of senior Soviet officials accused publicly at the congress of serious failings. In keeping with the nationwide drive to clean up the administration, Mr Kiyasova Bagirov, the local party chief, admitted to delegates that he shared some of the blame for not weeding out more corrupt officials and remedying inefficiency.

Pravda had on Sunday accused a number of former senior officials in the central Asian republic of Uzbekistan — one of the most notoriously corrupt areas of the Soviet Union — of being "state criminals".

The attack arose out of the party's five-yearly congress in the republic, part of preparations for the national meeting, which will be attended by 5,000 delegates. *Pravda* disclosed that the Uzbek party had accused several officials of corrupt practices on a vast scale.

The paper said distortion of statistics, embezzlement and bribery had become widespread in the republic, and that falsified figures and miscalculations had led to serious problems in the region's economy. Most of these singled out for denunciation were figures who held power during the Brezhnev era.

Western observers described the criticism and other widespread moves against corrupt, inefficient and elderly officials as part of a process of "ideological Brezhnevization" ordered



Mr Grishin: likely to lose Politburo seat.

the audience to hear it being made.

Mr Grishin, once known for his closeness to Brezhnev, is confidently expected to lose his seat on the ruling Politburo by the end of the congress. He had to sit stony-faced at the meeting of the city party organization through repeated condemnation of, among other things, fraud, bad transport, rude shop assistants and open corruption in the city's hospitals.

Another aspect of Soviet life singled out for criticism in the run-up to the congress has been excessive secrecy. On Saturday, the official paper *Sovetskaya Rossiya*, which has been in the vanguard of the Kremlin drive for more openness, attacked the secretive style of work of local Communist Party committees.

It alleged this was largely responsible for the unfounded rumours which frequently circulate like wildfire throughout the Soviet Union.

90 Tamil rebels die in pitched battles

Colombo (Reuters) — The Government has appealed for help from Buddhist monks to solve Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict after at least 90 Tamil rebels were reported killed in weekend battles with security forces.

President Jayewardene, speaking at a Buddhist ceremony at Wathurawila near Colombo, asked monks to propose "a strategy based on non-violence".

At least 60 guerrillas fighting for a separate Tamil state were killed in a 72-hour period in pitched battles at Kilinochchi in Northern Province, security sources said. A curfew was imposed on the area.

Thirty rebels were killed in Eastern Province, where land, sea and air forces stormed a guerrilla stronghold.

Mr Jayewardene had been due this week to discuss the violence with Mr Romesh Bhandari, a senior Indian Foreign Ministry official, but the talks have been postponed.

The Indian High Commission in Colombo said that Mr Bhandari's visit was put off "owing to unforeseen developments" and fresh dates would be announced. It did not elaborate.

Reports from India said that Mr Bhandari had reached Madras, where he had talks with Tamil leaders, on his way to Colombo before the visit was called off.

● Kidnapped Briton: A senior official of the British High Commission in Colombo has flown to Jaffna in Northern Province to help with the release of the kidnapped British freelance journalist, Mrs Penelope Willis (Vijitha Yapa writes). Mrs Willis, aged 64, was kidnapped by Tamil guerrillas of the Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students (Eros) on January 17 at Mullativu in north-eastern Sri Lanka. The guerrillas accuse her of being a spy.

On Sunday they released a five-page document in which they said that Mrs Willis had seen a number of people involved with security in Colombo. They also released a photocopy of an identity card showing that she is a member of the Royal United Service Institution for Defence Studies.

Omani pitfalls of marriage to foreigners

Muscat, Oman (AP) — Omani citizens who marry foreigners will be stripped of their nationality, the Ministry of the Interior has announced.

The announcement excepted from the punishment citizens marrying nationals from any of the six countries that make up the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Oman, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar.

The Interior Minister, Mr Badr bin Saud bin Hareb, told reporters the ruling was in line with an amendment of the Nationality Law, which went into effect on February 1.

Omanis who married foreigners would be violating the new law and stood to lose their nationality and forfeit the right of their children to Omani citizenship.

He listed three specific circumstances in which Omanis could marry foreigners — people over the age of 60, disabled persons and people marrying citizens from the other GCC states.

Romania puts lock on dissident typewriters

From Richard Bassett, Vienna

Forced to endure shortages of food and fuel unparalleled in Eastern Europe, long-suffering Romanians must now subject their typewriters to the rigours of bureaucracy.

Typewriter owners who do not register their machines with the police will face stiff fines and risk having their machines confiscated, Romanian newspapers warned.

The warning was part of a well-orchestrated press campaign to enforce a law passed in 1983 banning the possession of unlicensed typewriters in Romania.

Hungarians hit bottle

Vienna — Hungarians lead the world as consumers of hard spirits, the Hungarian daily *Magyar Hirlap* reported yesterday (Richard Bassett writes).

Last year the average Hungarian consumed 4.8 litres of spirits as well as 89 litres of beer and 33 litres of wine.

country in Central Europe, has unlimited access, at reasonable prices, to some of the best alcohol produced on either side of the Iron Curtain: beer from Bohemia, wine from Tokay and whisky and gin from the west.

The report said Hungarians on average spend more than a tenth of their monthly income on alcohol.



Mr Carl McNair, brother of Ronald McNair, who was killed in the Challenger shuttle disaster, being comforted by his wife at a South Carolina memorial service

Reagan starts spending cuts

From Michael Binyon, Washington

President Reagan has given the go-ahead for the first round of \$11.4 billion (£2.14 billion) in automatic spending cuts, while holding fast to his demand for defence spending increases, domestic budget cuts and no tax increases to reduce the deficit.

Standing firm in the face of pressure from his own party for an early compromise on this year's contentious budget, Mr Reagan said in his weekly radio broadcast that any tax increase Congress sent to him would be "DOA — dead on arrival".

He announced that the spending cuts for the current fiscal year, mandated by the

Gramm-Rudman Balanced Budget legislation, will take effect on March 1, unless they are successfully challenged in court. They represent a 4.3 per cent cut for domestic agencies and a 4.9 per cent cut for defence.

Mr Reagan said that passage of the Gramm-Rudman law was "an admission by Congress that zero hour is upon us". He insisted that government services could be maintained, but complained that the budget savings made no distinction between high-priority programmes and those of little merit.

Both Congress and the Administration have resigned

themselves to this first swing of the Gramm-Rudman budget axe.

The real fight will come over next year's budget, when more swinging cuts will be needed. The President is to submit his spending plan tomorrow, and Congress is hoping that last year's protracted and bruising budget fight can be avoided.

Senate Republicans have circulated a letter urging the President to act on deficit reduction before tax reform. The party leadership has, at meetings pressed on him the need not to wait until August or September before compromising on the budget.

South Africa inquiry Commonwealth's team to start on apartheid report

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

Two senior Commonwealth officials have left London for Cape Town to prepare the way for the first visit to South Africa later this month by members of the Commonwealth Group of Eminent Persons to promote a "dialogue for democracy" between the South African authorities and representative black leaders.

The Commonwealth has opted for a phased approach in carrying out its delicate and difficult mission.

The first phase will take place later this month when three of the seven-member group — Mr Malcolm Fraser, the former Prime Minister of Australia, General Olusegun Obasanjo, the former President of Nigeria and Dame Nita Barrow, a president of the World Council of Churches — hold a preliminary round of talks with black and white South African leaders. Their visit, preceded by a meeting of the full group in London, will begin on February 15.

Depending on the outcome the second phase will occur later in the spring when the full group will descend on South Africa for further talks before reporting to the Commonwealth on progress in dismantling apartheid.

The decision to set up the Commonwealth group was taken at the organization's summit meeting in Nassau last October as part of a compromise to prevent a split between Britain and the rest of the Commonwealth on the question of economic sanctions against South Africa.

The group has until June to assess progress towards

removing apartheid and the effectiveness of the political and constitutional reforms which President Botha has announced in recent months, most notably in his speech to Parliament last Friday.

The Commonwealth has warned it will consider imposing new restrictive measures on South Africa — such as banning flights to and from South Africa or boycotting its agricultural produce — if it is not satisfied that the apartheid barriers are beginning to come down.

As part of its carrot-and-stick approach to South Africa, the Commonwealth has also called on the Pretoria Government to take a number of actions, including promoting a political dialogue with black leaders, lifting the state of emergency, lifting the ban on the African National Congress and releasing Mr Nelson Mandela.

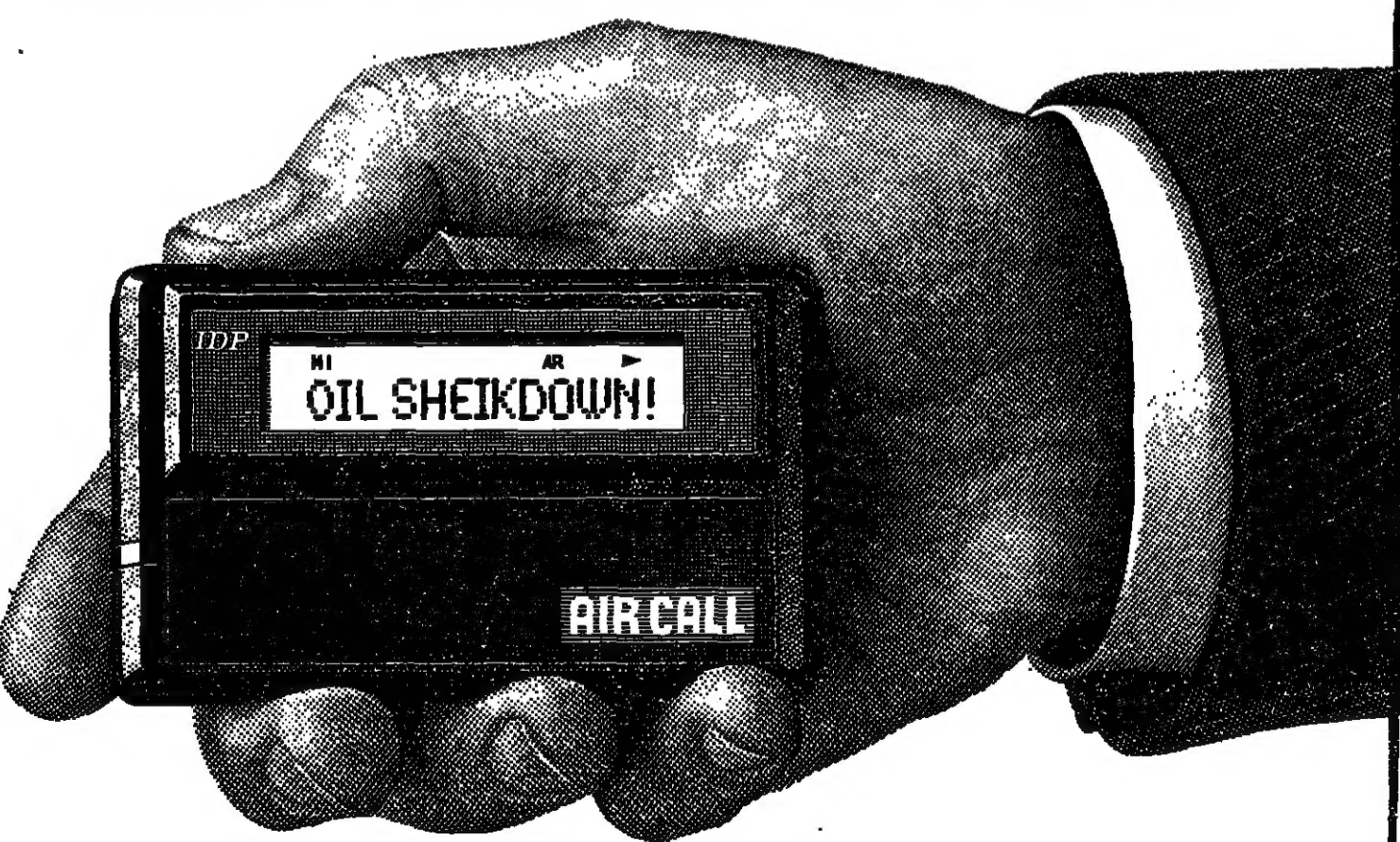
One of the first points which the Commonwealth officials must establish is exactly to whom the group will be able to talk and who is prepared to talk to them.

Much will depend on whether or not the Commonwealth team is allowed to talk to Mr Mandela. So far the South African Government has given no undertaking beyond saying that it is prepared to consider ways of facilitating the group's work.

● CAPE TOWN: Mrs Winnie Mandela yesterday contemptuously rejected the proposal by President Botha to free her husband in exchange for a South African soldier captured in Angola and two Soviet dissidents (Reuters reports).

Lesaka meeting, page 8

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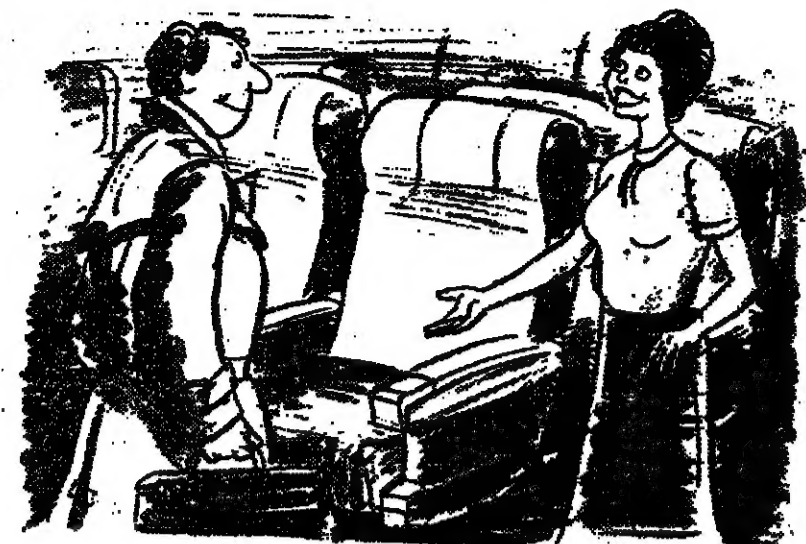
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"Champagne, sir?"



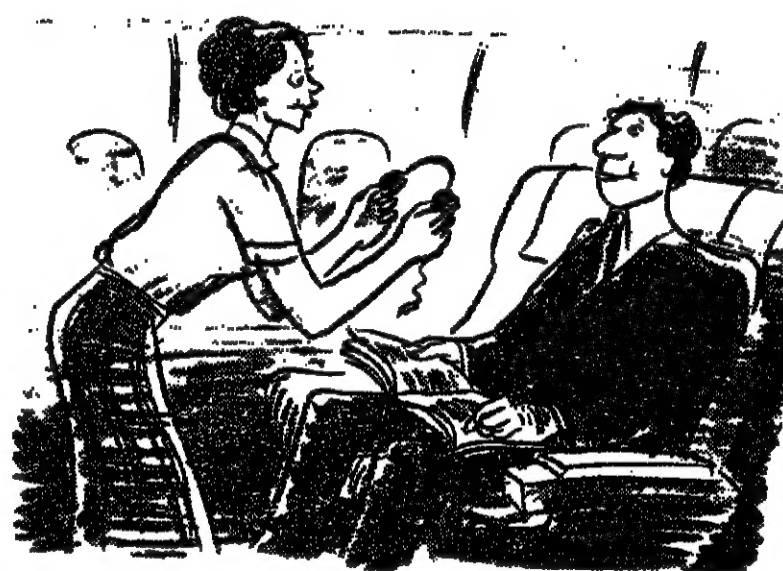
"Your menu, sir."



"Enjoy your meal, sir."



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مكتبة من الأصل

Day of truth for González over Spanish poll on Nato

From Our Own Correspondent, Madrid

Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, goes before Parliament today to defend his decision to hold a referendum on membership of Nato after hesitation and confusion that has damaged his image and strained the unity of his party and the trade unions.

When a centre-right government in Madrid took Spain into Nato in 1982, it calculated that the Socialists would never be able to take the country out again. It may still prove to have been right, but it is reckoned without Señor González, then leader of the Opposition, then leader

To ensure enough votes for victory in the general election that autumn, he inserted into the party manifesto a promise to hold a referendum on future membership if he won. Today that commitment catches up with him.

With the Socialist MPs discipline, and their big majority, there is no doubt that the referendum for March 12 will go through, but the three-day debate signals the opening of a campaign full of risks for the Government to convince Spaniards, and especially Socialist supporters, to vote "Yes", overcoming a powerful tradition of non-involvement in Spain.

Citizens will be asked now to approve Spain in the Atlantic Alliance (not "Nato", which has strong emotional overtones) provided, as the González Government now requires of its Nato partners, there is no integration in Nato's military commands, non-nuclear status for Spain, and a progressive reduction by the United States of its forces here.

But the Opposition, led by Señor Manuel Fraga, has got itself in an equal fix. Really wanting full integration, Señor Fraga will nevertheless urge his supporters to abstain. The aim is to invalidate the referendum, nicknamed by the Opposition "confoundendum". Yet the

Government maintains that it is "seriously" about leaving the alliance if it loses.

Privately, managers of Spain's two main parties admit that, on Nato, they do not control their own followers. Party membership of for less than 400,000 of more than 27 million people eligible to vote.

All the polls show Spaniards widely divided on Nato, with many still undecided. The Spanish press hardly helps. It sees the Nato debate not as an opportunity for educating the public about world realities after decades of isolation, but to parade ideological differences.

Spain's bishops, divided over Nato, have been obliged to tell Roman Catholics that they must vote "in conscience". This will hurt Señor Fraga.

Spanish industrialists know that their country's high-technology needs require Spain to be in Nato. Señor Narcis Serra, the Defence Minister, has emphasized this, but has told the service chiefs to stay out of the referendum debate.

The Nato issue is more complex in Spain than in other European countries. Public opinion reflects the same worries about the risks of involvement in nuclear mass destruction. But anti-Nato sentiment also stems from Spanish history. As Señor González has put it:

"The United States never liberated us from Franco but helped him stay in power after World War II". To galvanize the reluctant working-class vote, Señor González has mobilized party members now holding public office. Their jobs, and his, are on the line, he has warned.

The Government's problems give a golden opportunity to the Communists to seek to recover their ascendancy over the left, and they are behind big demonstrations planned throughout the referendum run-up.

First 100 days' rule outlined by Aquino

From David Watts Manila

In a packed hotel ballroom, Mrs Corason Aquino, the opposition presidential candidate, yesterday outlined her programme for the first 100 days of rule in the Philippines, with an emphasis on eliminating traces of the "Pharaoh" who had enslaved the country for 20 years, her opponent President Marcos.

Mrs Aquino received a rapturous response to what is likely to be her main campaign statement.

For most of the time she sounded like the victor already acknowledging success, a device clearly intended to convince the many waverers within the ruling New Society Movement that there is no stopping her bandwagon. She was repeatedly interrupted by applause in an address full of purple passages about the "pyramid of disgrace" that President Marcos had built.

Mrs Aquino promised to dismantle the monopoly hold that friends of Mr Marcos have over the coconut and sugar industry. She also plans to negotiate better terms for the Philippines foreign debt of \$25.6 billion (£18.2 billion) and the postponement of import liberalization measures.



Mrs Corason Aquino, the opposition's candidate in the Philippines presidential election, at lunch in Manila.

Marcos still holds all the aces to preserve dynasty

In his second article on the Philippines presidential election, DAVID WATTS reports from Manila on the likely outcome and post-election prospects.

President Ferdinand Marcos is not in the habit of losing elections.

Until the 1984 parliamentary elections, he looked almost unassailable. But that election proved that where the opposition could monitor the count and ensure its version of the tally got out quickly to the public, government manipulation of the results could be limited.

Since then the emotive figure of Mrs Corason Aquino has become a powerful symbol of the opposition, so powerful that Mr Marcos tried to persuade the Supreme Court to declare the election unconstitutional. He failed, but that does not mean he will not find some other way to maintain the influence of the Marcos family should the polls go against him on Friday.

His options are almost limitless because of his power to change the composition of the New Society Movement (NSM) ticket until noon of election day.

Both sides know that history is coming to the boil. At risk for the Marcos clan is the future of its dynasty. For the opposition and the

public at large, this may be the last opportunity both for peaceful change and to prevent what could develop into an irrevocable slide into a people's democratic republic. Reviewing the spectrum of Filipino opinion, it is hard to find a sector of society that is



PHILIPPINES ELECTIONS Part 2

not ready for change. The business sector was one of the first to come out against Mr Marcos. Electioneering tithes, like promises to reduce interest rates and a cut in the price of petrol, have not been enough to change many minds so far.

The strength of Mrs Aquino's following in Manila is somewhat taken for granted, but appearances can be misleading. Last week in the capital, two polls were taken among students at the middle class Jose Rizal College. In the first, a show-of-hands ballot, Mrs Aquino was an 80-20 winner, but in a secret ballot it was much closer at 60-40.

This false bandwagon ef-

fect may go some way to discount opposition claims about the size of its plurality. More sensitive is the attitude of the military and of the small reform movement within it whose dislike of Mr Marcos is already well known.

The military has by and large stayed out of Filipino politics and the American revelations about the faked elements of Mr Marcos's war record have embarrassed and dishonoured it. But the real test of the military's loyalty may come after the election if an unpopular Marcos victory brings arrest and an order to suppress it.

Two other clear stances, one foreign and one domestic, make Mr Marcos's position increasingly precarious: the US Government has indicated it is time for a change of leader and so has the Roman Catholic Church. Never before has the Church, which has great influence in the Philippines, come out with such a forceful and unified message: without naming her, it clearly indicates its preference for Mrs Aquino.

It is not clear whether all this will be sufficient to give Mrs Aquino victory. As the opposition says, she may win the vote but Mr Marcos may win the count. If that proves true, the immediate future is bleak.

Concluded

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

Philippines: Alberto de la Cruz

By Caroline Moorehead

Alberto de la Cruz is a farmer and traditional healer. Some time in the early summer of 1982 he was among at least 26 people, most of them farmers and members of rural self-help groups, who were arrested in the Balababan and Asturias areas of Cebu and charged with rebellion as alleged members of the New People's Army - the armed branch of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Rural organizations are frequently accused of involvement with the NPA, which is active in the countryside.

All but five of the original 26 prisoners are reported to have obtained their release by pleading guilty. One died. Alberto de la Cruz and the three others who first came to trial later in 1982 are said to have been intimidated into confessing involvement with the NPA, but all four have since retracted their statements. They remain in jail.

Despite pressure on them to plead guilty, they have written to friends: "We are prepared to sacrifice the rest of our lives rather than plead guilty. God knows that we are innocent."



Alberto de la Cruz: charged with rebellion.

Advice on a loveless marriage

Peking (UPI) - Chinese newspaper readers are urging a 39-year-old woman who refuses to grant her husband a divorce after 13 years of sexless, loveless marriage to face reality and "look for new love", according to the official China Daily.

Both the woman and her husband have threatened to commit suicide if they lose the divorce case - but the Chinese public has so far largely sided with the husband.

"The relationship deteriorated when the wife suffered from an illness which ended their sex life and shattered their hopes of having a child," China Daily said.

The couple lived together "without sex or mutual affection" for 13 years. The husband finally filed for divorce in 1983, over his wife's violent objection. She later agreed to divorce him, but only if he paid her 30,000 yuan, or £6,400.

In letters to China Daily, readers urged the woman to "face reality, to try to break out of the tragedy and to look for new love".

Pack ice halts Greenpeace plan for base

Sydney (Reuters) - The Greenpeace Antarctic expedition was heading for New Zealand yesterday after abandoning equipment for a planned base camp because of impenetrable pack ice, the expedition director said.

"We simply can't get in - it's unsafe," Mr Peter Wilkinson said.

The 35-man crew had hoped to reach a site on Ross Island to unload equipment and supplies after thick ice forced them to give up plans to build a camp to support Greenpeace's campaign to declare the continent a world park.

"It is a prudent withdrawal, and without a doubt we will be back next summer to build the camp," Mr Wilkinson said.

Women vote woman in

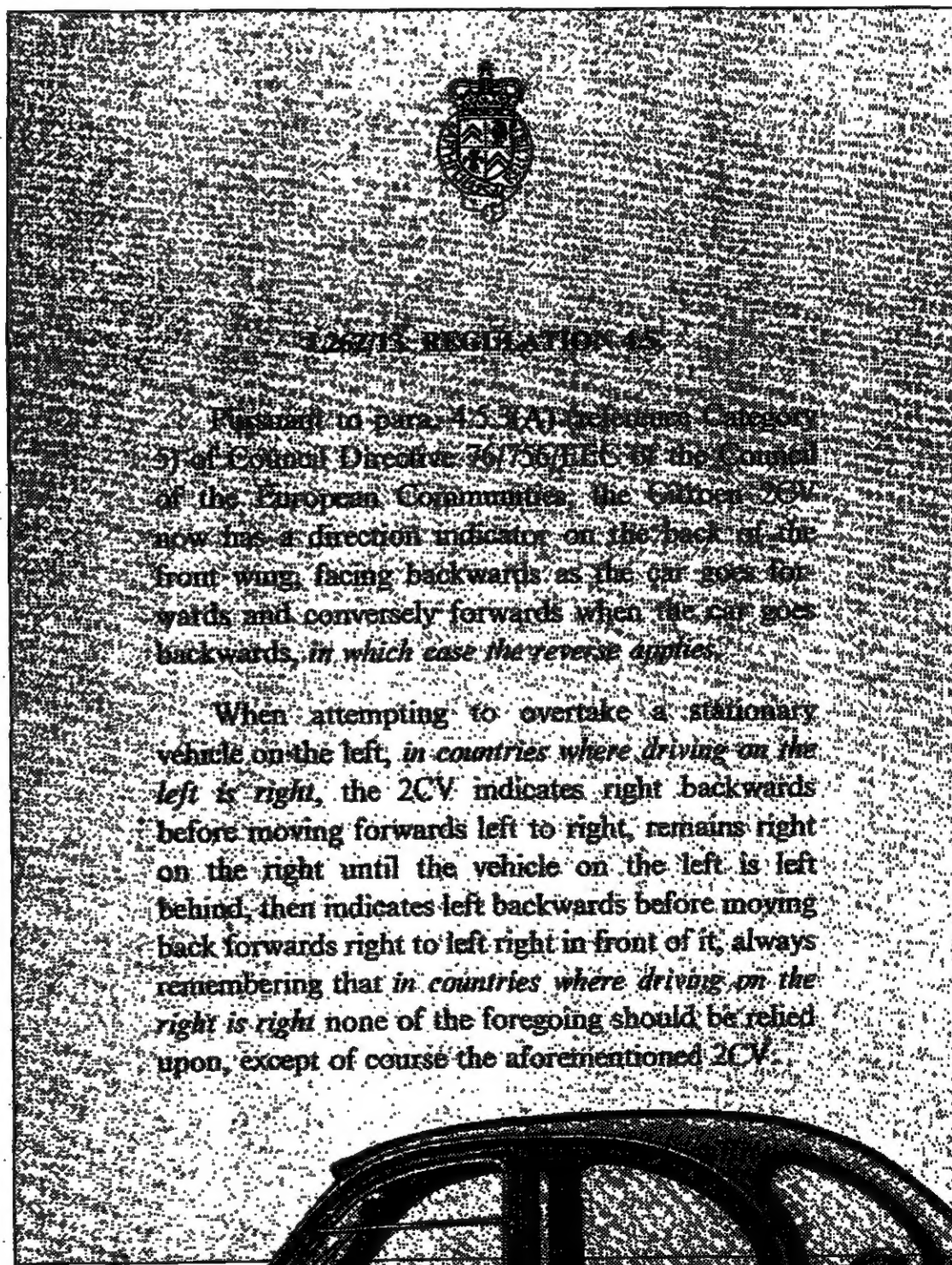
Vaduz, Liechtenstein (UPI) - Women who voted here for the first time at the weekend promptly helped to elect the first woman to Liechtenstein's 15-member Parliament.

Men in the 27,000-strong principality, wedged between Switzerland and Austria, voted in 1984 to give women their say in national elections. The composition of the new

Parliament was unchanged. The National Union Party kept power with eight seats and the People's Progressive Party stayed in opposition with seven seats.

Mrs Emma Egenmann, the first female deputy, belongs to the opposition.

A new Liberal Party failed to win the eight per cent of all votes required for representation.



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The Pope's visit to India

Mother Teresa's happiest day

From Michael Hamlyn
Calcutta

Just as the sun was sinking over Calcutta's fetid pools and towering slums, the Pope visited the woman who perhaps more than any other has come to symbolize the Roman Catholic church in India.

The tiny founder of the sisterhood she called the Missionaries of Charity, brown and wrinkled as a walnut, waited anxiously for more than an hour for the Pope to arrive in the gleaming white Land-Rover with a bullet-proof glass tower known as the Popemobile.

Mother Teresa, overjoyed to welcome him to the people she earlier called "the poorest of the poor", clambered aboard his vehicle and sank to her knees kissing his hand. The Pope bent and kissed the top of her head.

Then she led him inside *Nirmal Hriday*. The name means simply Sacred Heart, the home she founded in October 1950 for the destitute dying. The home is in a wing of the Temple of Kali, the Goddess of Destruction, which she was offered on a temporary basis 36 years ago.

Yesterday there were still inside the home 42 men and 44 women being cared for by Mother Teresa's white-sari-clad sisterhood. The Pope gave their evening meal to five of the patients, and offered a prayer, calling on God to bless the dying.

"Bless those who will soon meet you face-to-face," the Pope prayed. "We believe you have made death the gateway to eternal life."

"I have never seen the Holy Father so moved," said a member of the Vatican staff accompanying the Pope. "When Mother Teresa asked him a question he was simply unable to speak."



A joyful Mother Teresa being embraced by the Pope as he arrived at her Sacred Heart home for the dying in the slums of Calcutta as part of his tour of India.

The Pope tried to feed one of the dying patients, and kissed and embraced several more, both men and women.

As for Mother Teresa, she said it was "the happiest day of my life". She declared: "It is a wonderful thing for the people, for his touch is the touch of Christ."

Afterwards the Pope addressed a short homily from

a platform erected in the street outside.

"*Nirmal Hriday* is a place of hope," he said. "A house built on courage and faith, a home where love reigns, a home filled with love."

The Pope also offered prayers for two inmates, an old woman and a young child, who had not been able to wait to see him, but had

died earlier in the day.

Earlier yesterday the Pope was welcomed to the poorest, most depressed area of India and declared that the Church insisted on a "just wage for workers, a wage that takes into account the needs of their family."

Then to the densely-populated state of Bihar, where rivalries are such that one

caste recently wiped out an entire village of a rival but inferior caste.

The Pope met half a million *Adivasis*, the bottom of the social heap in India. They are the tribals, the name *Adivasi* means aboriginal — and are descendants of those dark-skinned people who arrived in the sub-continent thousands of years before the arrival of even the Dravidian people of the Southern Plateau. To say nothing of the comparatively latecoming Brahmin-led Aryans with their paler skins and rigid class distinctions.

The *Adivasis* have welcomed Christianity as a relief from the oppression of the upper castes, and the church that the Pope was anxious to present to them was the working-class Church.

"Jesus Christ was a carpenter's son," the Pope said as he celebrated Mass under brilliant spring sunshine. "He worked for the greater part of his life in the same trade as his foster father, Joseph. By working, Jesus proclaimed in the ordinary activities of his daily life the dignity of work."

The tribal people welcomed the Pope by washing his feet and hands and by having him walk on a series of baskets to the rostrum. They danced for him to the sound of the tribal mander drum.

The Pope responded by saying that his heart went out especially to the unemployed, who want to work but can't "because of discrimination based on religion, caste, community or language."

Police in Ranchi, the chief town of the largely tribal area, said that 35 arrests had been made before the Pope's arrival to forestall possible trouble.

Fleeing Ugandan troops turn to halt NRA push

From Richard Dowden, Kiziba Masindi, Uganda

Uganda's National Resistance Army has been halted in its northward advance near this village, 15 miles north of Masindi.

The NRA, in effect the new government Army, is facing an estimated 900 Ugandan National Liberation Army (UNLA) troops from the former regime who have occupied Kigumba, a road junction two miles from what is the last village before the strategic Karuma Falls bridge over the Nile.

The 900 UNLA soldiers are the remnants of the garrison from north of Kampala who fled but decided to take a stand at Kigumba, where the road from Kampala meets the road from Masindi. The NRA has occupied Masindi Port and Panga at both ends of the Victoria Nile, and have cut the road from Kampala.

They were waiting on Sunday to catch the rest of the fleeing troops still struggling up the road from Kampala before attacking Kigumba and advancing to the Nile. At Masindi Port, where the Nile is about half a mile wide, the fleeing soldiers had taken the ferry and left it on the far bank while others had crossed in dug-out canoes, leaving their heavy weapons behind.

About 50 young NRA soldiers here were crouched in the elephant grass in a hollow each side of the road just north of the village. They were very tired but alert. The only cape they had was laid over their light machinegun and rocket-propelled grenade launcher. It is difficult to remember that they are now the Government Army and not a guerrilla band. There is only a low rise between them and Kigumba, and the soldiers were very tense. There had been skirmishes earlier in the day, but the NRA will not attack until its rear is secure and it has more troops here.

Families from villages caught up in the fighting were trudging down the road to Masindi, carrying their scant possessions in bundles on their heads. They brought tales of atrocities and looting by the NRA troops.

One said that four villagers had been burnt alive when one of them refused to give petrol to the soldiers. Others said that the troops at Kigumba were divided among themselves; some wanting to

stand and fight, others to continue north. One report said that Acholi troops had blocked the bridge and were forcing their colleagues to turn back south and fight the NRA.

David Cinyeffa, the commander of the Western Brigade of the NRA, said that he would press on over the Nile as soon as the NRA had taken Karuma Falls. A quiet, thoughtful young man who was a policeman until he joined the NRA, Mr Cinyeffa said that he would use the same tactic on the other side of the Nile as he had used until now.

"There are some people here from that side who are sympathetic to us and we will send them across first to tell the people we are friendly and will not harm anybody," he said. "We will tell those soldiers to surrender and then when all is prepared we will move in."

But the Nile crossing will test NRA tactics. So far the NRA has operated in the west and south among its own people, who have been friendly. In the north they will encounter the Nilotic tribes at Acholi Langie and



the people of West Nile who comprised the bulk of the former Army.

Idi Amin, Obote and Tito Okello all came from these areas and ruled through the dominance of these tribes. The NRA's policy of being a liberating disciplined army on the side of the peasants will be set against traditional tribal loyalties.

At Masindi, the NRA was holding about 300 prisoners, of whom 120 were from the Uganda National Rescue Front, the guerrilla group which operated in West Nile in support of Idi Amin after his overthrow, and which joined forces with the Okello regime after the coup in July last year. The NRA overran Masindi on Thursday last week.

Leaders of Greece and Turkey meet at last

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

The Greek Prime Minister, Mr Andreas Papandreu, and his Turkish counterpart, Mr Turgut Ozal, met for the first time and shook hands cordially at the weekend — but they had no opportunity to discuss the issues of Cyprus or the Aegean.

They took part in a round-table session at the Davos IMF world economic forum, seated either side of the chairman, Mr Gaston Thorn. With them was Mr Malcolm Baldrige, the US Commerce Secretary.

After Mr Papandreu had said that the EEC needed a common industrial policy, Mr Ozal asked if he wanted something like the EEC Common Agricultural Policy, with its much-criticized subsidies. Mr Papandreu agreed that CAP discriminated against southern Europe's farmers.

The two leaders' predecessors, Mr Konstantin Karamanlis and Mr Bulent Ecevit, met at a Montreux conference in March 1978 to discuss issues dividing them.

Angolan ministers sacked

Luanda (Reuters) - President Eduardo Dos Santos of Angola has sacked three members of his Cabinet and named three super-ministers to oversee several departments.

Political sources said those dismissed were: Mr Evaristu Domingos, the Minister of Provincial Co-ordination, better known by his guerrilla nickname "Kimba"; Mr Diogenes de Assis Boavista, the Minister of Justice; and Mr Horacio Pereira Brás da Silva, the Minister for Labour and Social Security.

Mr Pedro Van-Dúnen, the Minister for Oil and Energy better known as "Loy", now takes on the additional role of Minister of State.

Mr Kundi Payana, the Benguela Provincial Commissioner and, like Loy, a full member of the Politburo of the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), takes on the responsibility for inspection and state control.

Mr Maria Mumbo Cahá, a candidate member of the MPLA Politburo, is now responsible for overseeing planning, finance, labour and social security.

2,000 held in protest

Delhi (Reuters) - Police yesterday arrested 2,000 demonstrators protesting at sharp rises in petrol and food prices.

Only about 200 protesters escaped arrest as police moved in to stop a noisy column marching on the office of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister, to present a memorandum against the increases.

The Government last week increased the prices of rice, wheat and petroleum products by between 25 and 40 per cent.

Europe firm on sanctions

From Jan Raath, Harare

The first meeting between the foreign ministers of the southern African front line states and the European Commission began in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, yesterday, with the Europeans firmly resisting pressure for intensified action against South Africa.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, set the tone when he told delegates from the front line states of Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe and the 12 EEC countries that it would be

wrong to increase pressure on South Africa now when there were some signs of change.

Referring to the speech to the South African Parliament last week by President Botha, Sir Geoffrey said the signs were still "desperately slow", but that the process of change should be encouraged.

Earlier, Mr Hans van den Broek, the Foreign Minister of The Netherlands, which holds the presidency of the EEC Council of Ministers, said in a speech at the meeting's opening in Lusaka's Mulungushi Hall,

that the body was not now prepared to move beyond the limited package of sanctions imposed on South Africa. But he accused South Africa of being the "fundamental obstacle" to peace in the region.

President Kannda of Zambia made an emotional appeal at the opening for comprehensive economic sanctions, and warned the Europeans that their investments in South Africa would "go up in flames" before long because of the impending conflagration there.

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WHAT IS REQUIRED TO GET A SHOT AT A 2 YEAR ARMY SCHOLARSHIP

Interviews are held in the Spring and Autumn for boys, and just in the Autumn for girls. The purpose is to discover whether applicants have the potential to become Army Officers.

At the time of their application they must be between 16 years and 16 years 6 months. And must have, or be expecting, at least five high grade 'O' levels, including English Language, Maths and a science or foreign language.

However, this doesn't preclude diversity.

Another way.

Boys who are already embarked on 'A' level courses in Maths and the sciences can apply for one of the thirty Science Scholarships we award each Spring.

The object is to help potential officers on their way to a career in the Army's technical corps with a scholarship for one year at 50 a term.

(Boys from both fee-paying and non fee-paying schools are eligible.)

When they complete their 'A'

levels they too are guaranteed a place at Sandhurst.

And yet another.

If you have a technically minded son between the ages of 16 and 17½, and he can meet the requirements for a Science Scholarship (see box) he could be eligible for Welbeck.

WHAT IS NEEDED TO GET A 1 YEAR SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP

The applicant must have excellent grades in 'O' level Maths, Physics, English and at least two other subjects. And have the ability to convince an interview board that he has got what it takes to be an Army Officer.

Welbeck is an exclusive, residential, sixth form college in the Nottinghamshire countryside run by the Army.

The curriculum is designed to equip students for careers as Officers in the technical corps.

Again, on completion of 'A' levels, the student is guaranteed a place at Sandhurst.

About two thirds of the students go on to complete a degree course, the majority at Shrewsbury, the Royal Military College of Science, although some may compete for places at a civil university.

Two other ways to a university degree.

If your son aims to get a degree and wishes to become a Regular Army Officer, he can try for an Undergraduate Cadetship.

The requirements are demanding but successful applicants get a probationary commission and their tuition paid, plus at least £5,130 p.a.

When they finish their degree course they go on to an Officers

training course at Sandhurst to confirm their commission.

THE REQUIREMENTS FOR AN UNDERGRADUATE CADETSHIP

The applicant must be over 17 and intend to graduate before 25; be at, or have been promised a place at, a university, polytechnic or college of higher education; be able to pass the Army's 3-day Officer Selection Board and be willing to serve at least 5 years as an Officer (including the course at Sandhurst).

On the other hand, if your son or daughter is already reading for a degree, he or she could apply for a Bursary. This amounts to £900 a year, is tax free and additional to any education authority grants.

It is intended to help people who want careers as Army Officers to complete their degree courses. Applicants have to meet the challenge of the Army's three-day Officer Selection Board.

On graduation Bursars also do the seven months Officer training course at Sandhurst. On completion of which they can take up either a 3 year Short Service Commission or a Regular Commission.

At the end of a Short Service Commission, a useful tax-free gratuity is paid. A Regular Commission is pensionable.

Can we help you?

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Tell him your son or daughter's date of birth, school and academic qualifications and we will clarify and expand on what we have to offer.

Army Officer

Briton dies in holiday isle fire

Madrid - A 34-year-old Wolverhampton man was among seven people, four of them children, who died when a fire swept through a holiday chalet in San José, Ibiza, on Saturday night (Richard Wigg writes).

Police said John Walter Spritle had arrived that day and was staying with a Dutch couple, who also died in the fire with their two children aged seven and four.

The fire was discovered when a Swiss couple went to the chalet to collect their six-year-old twins who had been staying there and found them dead. Police suspect the blaze began at a wicker table near an open fire.

The bomb was apparently intended for an office of President Gemayel's Phalange party near by. The Voice of Lebanon radio station appealed for blood donors.

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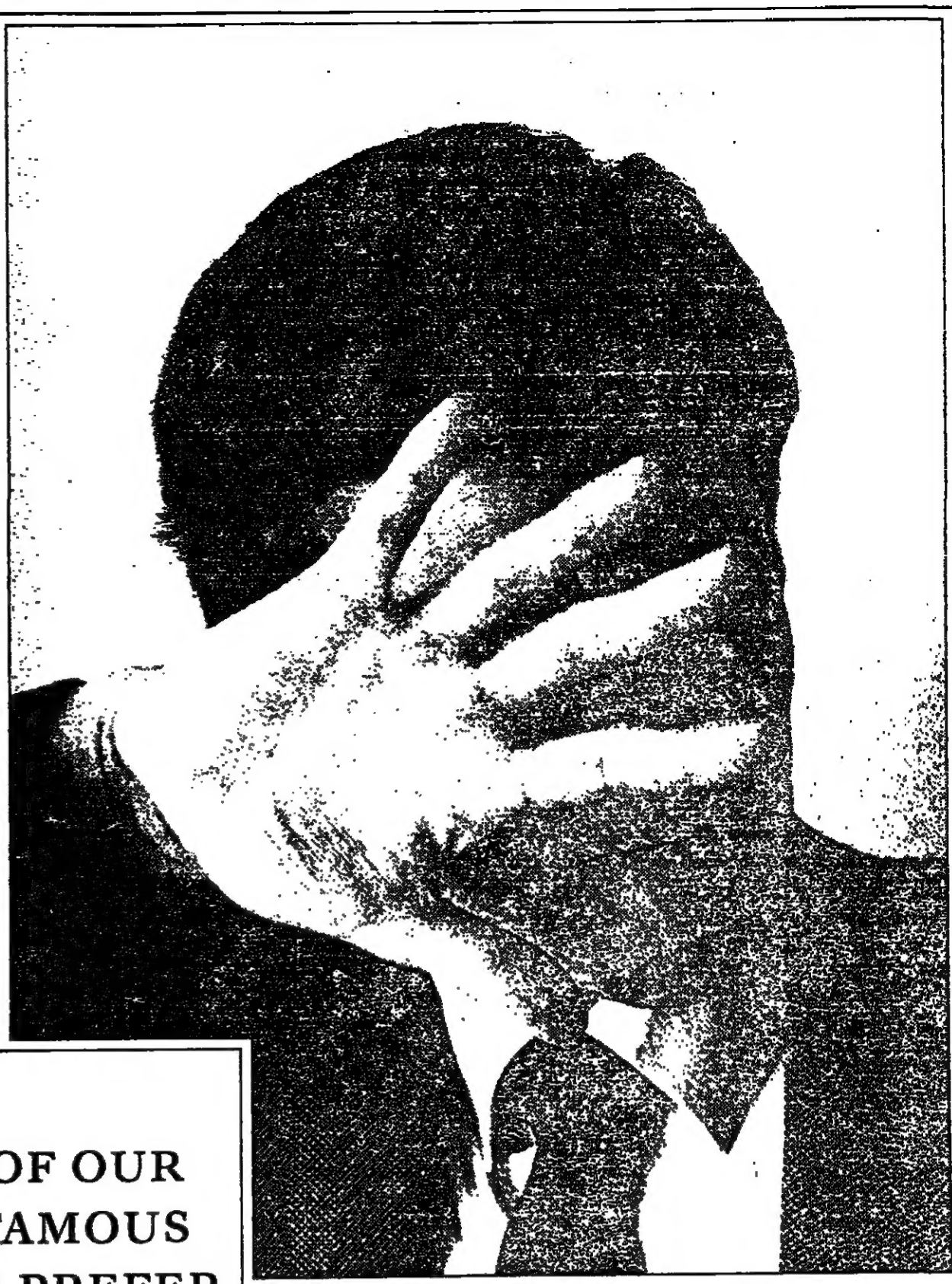
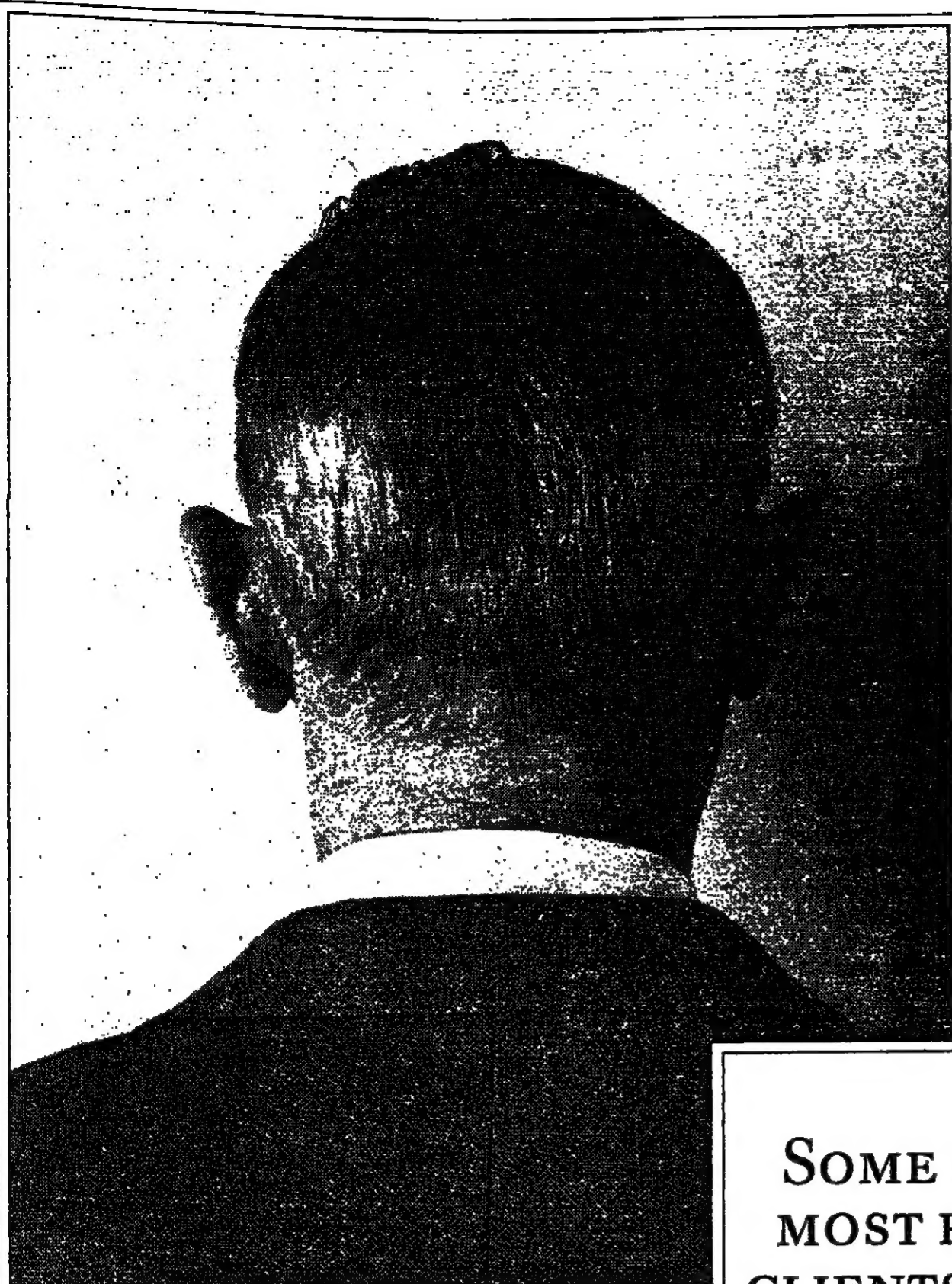
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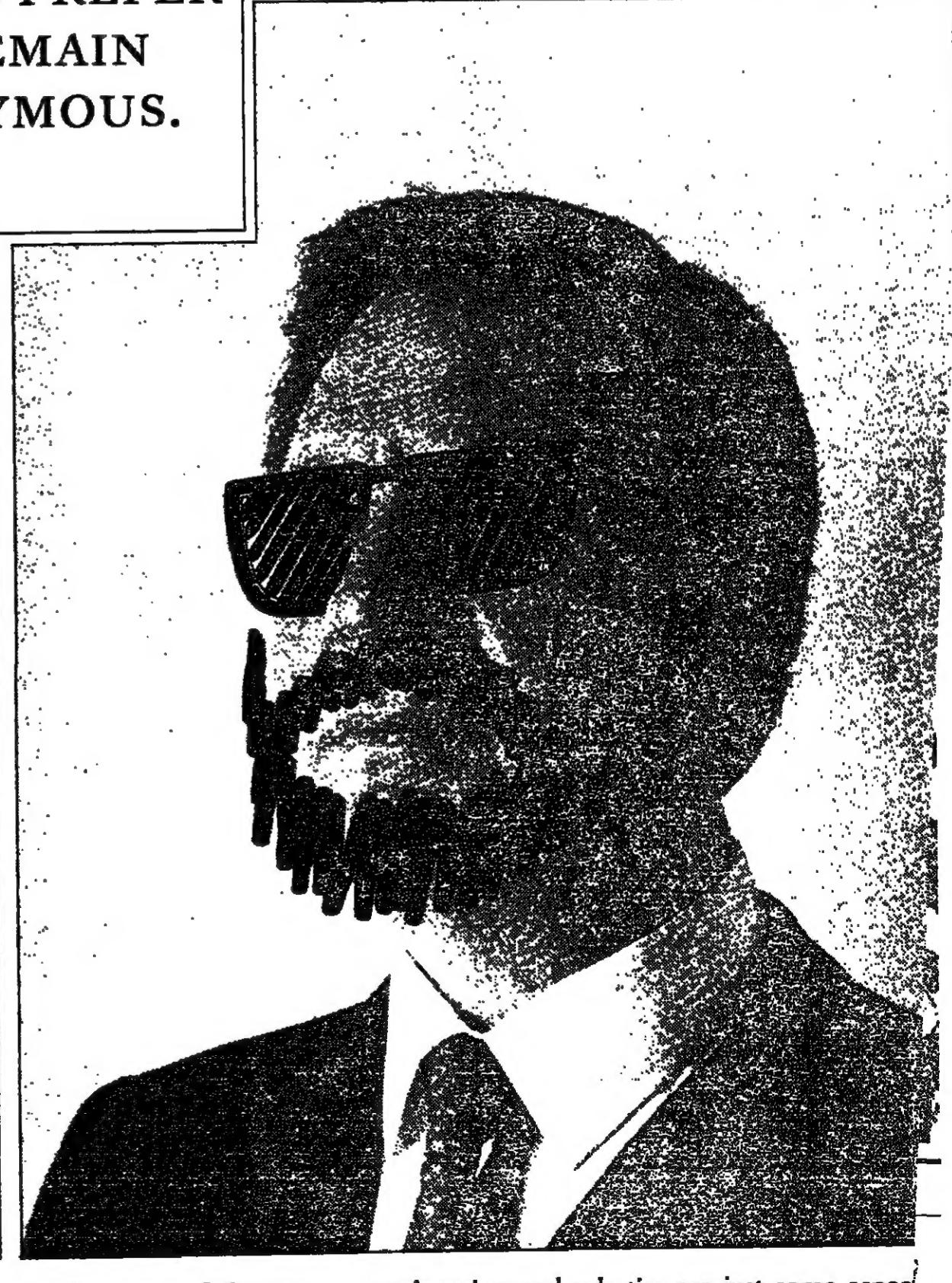
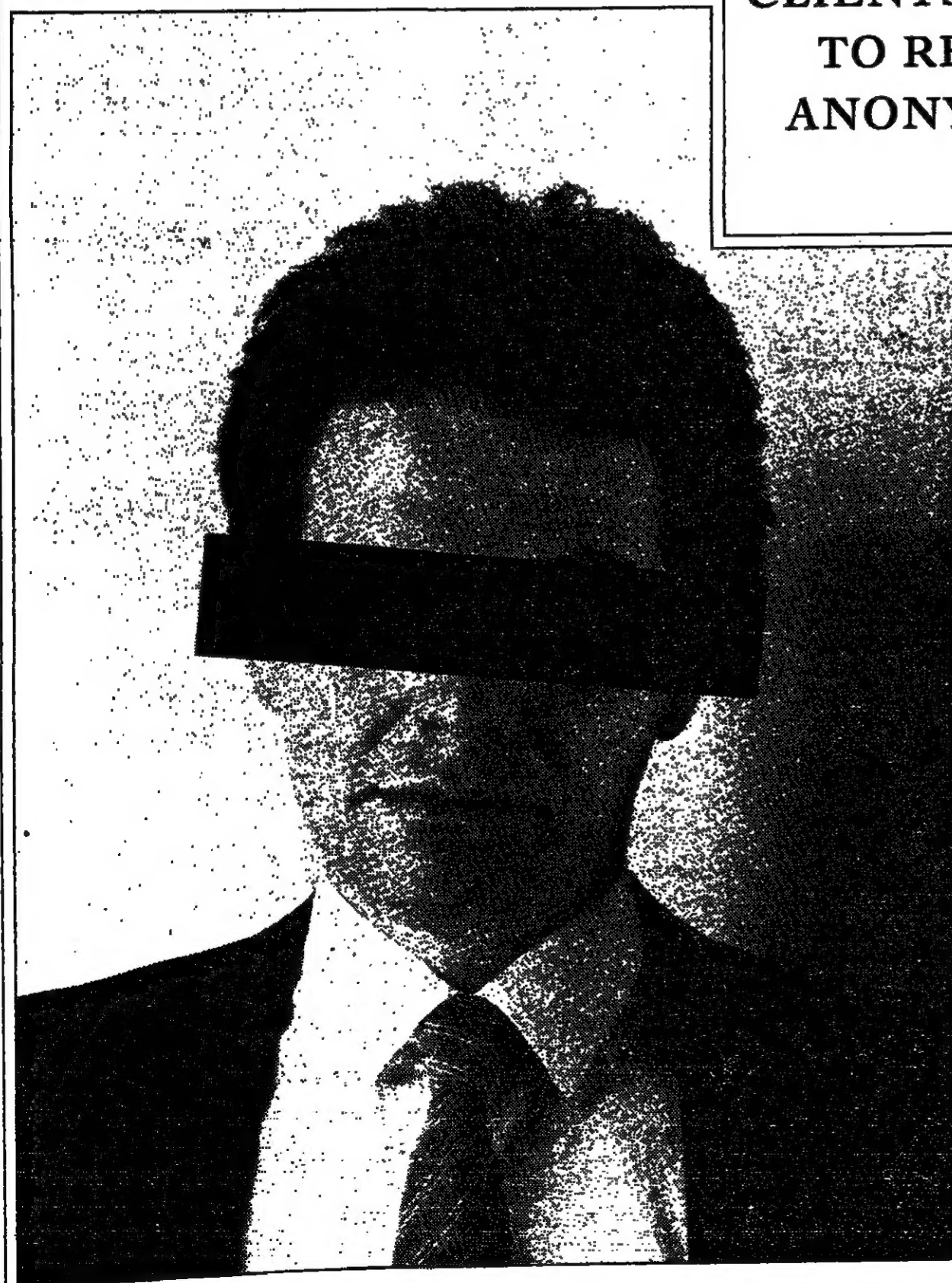
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*Times Top 500 Nov 1985

Two faces of Farmer Giles

If public image was a crop, farmers would reap a poor harvest. The once highly-regarded ruddy-cheeked honest toilers of old are now seen as wicked despoilers of the countryside. Yet the reality of farm life is very different with contrasts even between close neighbours

The typical British farmer does not exist. He may be anything from a millionaire landowner, squire of a hereditary great estate, to a tenant scratching a living from tending a flock of sheep on a remote Celtic hillside.

Even in the countryside farmers have become less conspicuous as their numbers have progressively declined. Once highly regarded as honest toilers, the salt of the earth, they are now more commonly seen as subsidized "whingers", paid to produce food which no one wants to buy, chopping down trees and ripping out hedges, polluting the earth with agro-chemicals, and doing all they can to deny their fellow citizens access to the countryside.

Almost everything said about them, good or bad, is an exaggeration, for the simple reason that they cannot be grouped in a single category. Even among close neighbours it is possible to find sharp contrasts in circumstances and outlook.

Peter Sowray, for example, grows wheat, barley, oilseed rape, potatoes and feed peas on 400 acres of the Vale of York between Boroughbridge and Easingwold. The land is rented from the Crown Estate - as long ago as 1969 he was chosen from more than 200 applicants, probably, he thinks, because he was a local lad, brought up on the farm next door - and he has since bought a further 100 acres of his own about nine miles away.

He is a pleasant, philosophical Yorkshireman, well aware that the peace and comfort of his daily life, and the beauty of his surroundings, more than compensate for occasional frustrations.

Although not wealthy compared with the hereditary owners of thousands of acres, he is happy to

admit that his is an enviable existence. Of his three children the eldest, a daughter, is at Newcastle Polytechnic; his 18-year-old son, Robert, has just started at an agricultural college in York; and the younger daughter is still at school and "mad about ponies".

There is time enough for holidays and for social life, including occasional visits to theatres in York or Harrogate. He concedes that, apart from a few frantic weeks at harvest time, it is not a particularly arduous life. In addition to help from his son in the holidays, he employs two men full time.

Farmers as a social group are surprisingly prone to suicide and mental illness, and Peter mentions a neighbour who recently hanged himself.

"You get this image of the happy, bucolic, ruddy-cheeked Farmer Giles, but some people are just not cut out for the life, and it's very easy to get depressed when things go wrong."

"As farmers we've had a bad press in the past couple of years, and perhaps we're oversensitive to criticism. But I still think we're misunderstood. Everyone thinks that farming is riddled with subsidies, but in fact the return on capital is ridiculously low. It's a good life but not as easy or rolling in money as some believe."

A few miles away Geoff Hudson is not so sure about the good life. Now in his mid-50s, he keeps a herd of 49 Holstein and crossbred dairy cows and heifers on 75 acres rented from North Yorkshire County Council. He has the help of his wife Anne and his son Stephen, aged 19, although since the imposition of dairy quotas there has not been enough work to employ Stephen full time, and he has had to seek casual work elsewhere.

"We're getting paid less for milk than we were a year ago, but the housewife isn't paying any less", he says. "She's paying 23p or 24p a pint, which I'm told is the highest in Europe, and I'm getting 6p. Somebody in between is making a lot of money."

"All our milk goes to Associated Dairies in Leeds, and they're the people who are building all these supermarkets out of the profits they've made from milk. The man who does the local milk round makes twice as much money as I do, new car, foreign holidays and all the rest."

For Geoff and Anne there are no foreign trips, just a one-week busman's holiday, a series of farm visits organized by the British Holstein Society. Anne describes their present life as a treadmill.

Despite his difficulties, Geoff talks happily about his three daughters, the youngest an Army physical training instructor who has climbed in the Himalayas.

He has mixed feelings about whether to carry on. "I never felt



Photomontage by Michael Bennett

Farming is not just another business

that milking twice a day was monotonous, so long as we were making money. But in the last two years it's begun to get to us. On the other hand I don't want to go out a beaten man."

Farmers have a long-standing reputation for taking a gloomy view of their circumstances. But there is within the industry an inescapable sense of impending change.

A 43 per cent drop in incomes last year is not quite as bad as it sounds since the Government's definition of farm income is more accurately the profit made after the deduction of costs, rents, and interest charges.

But that may be only the start. After four decades of being cosseted and cushioned, first by the post-war Agricultural Policy, farmers are having to come to terms with both the "green"

politics of the late 20th century and market place realities.

For hardline monetarists that is none too soon. Farming, it is said, is a business like any other. But the recent flood of bankruptcies across the farm belt of the United States has demonstrated the practical and political difficulties of applying unadorned Reaganomics.

Another difficulty is that much of our agricultural policy is now determined in Brussels and not in Whitehall. EEC officials have

made it clear that, to cut costs and reduce surpluses, their main aim will still be to protect the small farmers for whom the CAP was originally designed and who are still a significant political force in several member countries.

British farmers, whose holdings are on average twice the size of the next largest in the EEC and whose vote, except in a handful of constituencies, nowadays hardly counts, may feel that they are being left out in the cold.

Most will probably survive the frost, but it is well to remember that in two important senses farming is not just another industry. Not only does it provide our most basic need, but it still shapes the greater part of the landscape in which we live.

John Young

Freeing Siberia's frozen assets

Excavating the mineral riches that lay beneath the Soviet permafrost exacts a ferocious human price

In the words of a famous Russian folk saying: "In Siberia, 40 degrees below zero is not a frost, 100 kilometres is not a journey and half a litre of vodka is not a drink."

The sentiments behind that saying still remain surprisingly true, despite the recent arrival here of hi-tech, jet aircraft, a new railway, Japanese finance. Mikhail Gorbachev's controversial anti-alcohol campaign and disenchanted for bored teenagers.

Siberia is still one of the most forbidding and awe-inspiring wildernesses in the world. The use of superlatives seems justified to portray the reality of a region once immortalized by the author Maxim Gorky in his chilling phrase "a land of death and chains".

Although the salt mines have long lost their importance, it is ironic that Siberia, which was for so long associated with the worst kind of human degradation, now holds the power to make the Soviet Union the world's richest country.

Mining of salt continues, but it has been superseded in importance by the hunt for other riches buried in the deep-frozen sub-soil, including 65 per cent of the nation's explored oil resources, 82 per cent of its gas, over 80 per cent of its coal, and diamond deposits so large that the Soviet Union is now the second largest producer after South Africa.

Less widely discussed, but of equal importance, is the strategic value of an area which was the first place selected for the stationing of SS20 missiles. From the Soviet Union's point of view, Siberia's vital defence role stems mainly from its location close to the Chinese border.

It is no secret that the proximity of the old Trans-Siberian railway to the Chinese border was one of the main reasons prompting the Kremlin to sanction the hugely expensive and problematical new line known

as BAM (the Baikal-Amur Mainline) in 1974, some 2,000 miles of which are now complete.

As part of Mr Gorbachev's new information policy, a small group of Western reporters were permitted to travel along the newest section of the track for the first time. Known as Mali, or Little Bam, it is scheduled to link the new mainline with the regional capital of Yakutsk in 10 years' time, and to become a major factor in opening up this remote corner.

The ride on single track through miles of uninhabited and inhospitable countryside, provided a graphic reminder of the engineering skills and bravery of the 100,000 Soviet citizens who have so far taken part in the construction.

Much of the work has been done in temperatures as low as minus 60 centigrade, but even at a mere 35 degrees below zero the inter-connecting corridor between coaches was thick with ice.

Like many of the other Siberian industrial enterprises, Bam is a considerable economic risk and stands little chance of becoming cost effective in the lifetime of even such a youthful Kremlin leader as the 54-year-old Mr Gorbachev.

Living conditions are bad, despite the high wages

Yet when Mr Gorbachev makes his keynote address to the 27th Communist Party Congress later this month, he will be only too aware that his hopes of rescuing the Soviet Union from economic decline will depend largely on the speed and efficiency with which Siberia can be persuaded to yield its riches.

But the onus for the Kremlin are not good.

Mr Gorbachev paid a significant visit to the largest Soviet oil field at Tyumen last September, and later lambasted the Siberian oil industry bosses for their inefficiency.

And to those who do come to work in Siberia living conditions are not good despite the high wages. "What good is money without anything you want in the shops to spend it on?", one recent arrival complained.

Christopher Walker



On the tracks: Railway workers on the perma-frost



Peter Sowray and Geoff Hudson

FARM FACTS

In the United Kingdom there are more than 46,677,000 acres of farmland, employing more than 700,000 people on nearly 240,300 holdings. There are nearly 13 million cattle and more than 35 million sheep. Crop output is worth more than £3 billion and livestock early £4.5 billion. The total net farming income is just over £1 billion but the farmers' average come (including part-time farmers) after deducting costs, rents and interest charges, is £3,966 net.

Source: Government Annual Review of Statistics 1986. Figures are for June 1985.

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LITTLEWOODS POOLS. IT'S DAFT NOT TO.

£1 million uncovered

More than a million pounds was given for archaeological digs in the City of London last year, surprisingly, almost all of it by developers.

The Department of Urban Archaeology at the Museum of London has established a cordial relationship with the relatively few firms of architects and developers working in the City, so that "it is not unusual for developers or their agents to telephone the DUA even before they have made a planning application", says Mr John Maloney, the Excavations Officer.

"Developers have come to recognize professional archaeologists as a necessary part of the redevelopment team along with architects, structural and civil engineers and quantity surveyors. They have come to be persuaded that the full cost of excavation is a legitimate charge on the redevelopment budget."

Sometimes, even the archaeologists have been useful to the builders. There have been embarrassing misjudgments of subsurface features from boreholes which have been corrected during excavation.

Working together

Sometimes an unexpected discovery will bring archaeologists, developers and planners together in an effort to resolve a crisis - the most recent example is that of the Flying Chapel of Holy Trinity.

Holy Trinity Priory was founded in 1108 by Matilda, wife of King Henry I, on a site just inside Aldgate.

The Priory Church lay in the southern part of the precinct, adjacent to Leadenhall Street, and recent redevelopment by Speyhawk Estates has revealed part of its remains. The foundations for the south wall of the choir were found, together with almost the whole plan of the south transept, but the surprise came from two chapels, one on the east side of the transept and the other on the south side of the choir aisle.

The former was still standing 12 feet high. The entrance to the second chapel survived as an arch still rising 23 feet above foundation level.

The arch has been known since 1900, and was already protected as a Listed building. The more complete transept chapel was unexpected and unprotected, however. Preserving it in situ would have meant a lot of expensive redesign.

Instead, it was lifted out for later reinstatement. The stones were injected with resin to gum the whole chapel together, the foundations were underpinned, and then the whole package was lifted out.

More masonry

More fragments of medieval masonry have turned up just north of the former home of The Times in Blackfriars, where the Priory of the Dominican Black Friars existed from 1276 to 1538. A moulded pier base was found which could be matched with a carved stone found on the site in the 1920s. Together they can be used to reconstruct on paper a fourfold column with a plan like a lucky four-leafed clover.

The value of pursuing the quarry to the bitter end was demonstrated by the recovery of a youth's sword, spotted in the half minute between excavating machine and lorry at Billingsgate. Among the finds preserved by damp were a number of

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research: ARCHAEOLOGY

mouldings from the Wren church which were in all likelihood window tracery of the medieval Greyfriars, the Franciscan monastery close to St Paul's.

In the church of St Mary-at-Hill, between the Monument and the Tower and close to the start of the fire that gave Wren his great opportunity, it was found that he had incorporated the standing wall of the medieval building into his own.

Glorious mud

The objects found along the Thames frontage, lost in the river mud and often preserved by waterlogging, are among the most important finds from recent work in the City. While some of them are Roman, including a lead alloy seal depicting an elephant with its rider, most date from the Middle Ages.

Metalwork has been recovered in great quantity; the most notable is a complete 14th-century straight trumpet, without valves, made of copper alloy, and found in the foreshore at Billingsgate.

Many metal finds have been made by the Society of Thames Mudlarks and Antiquarians, an amateur group who scour the river banks with metal detectors.

textile fragments, including a 9th-century lozenge twill in wool, from a site at Milk Street, a piece of 14th-century checked cloth from Baynard's Castle, and a rare Islamic silk with Kufic writing found in a cesspit at Holy Trinity Priory by Aldgate.

Rarest of all were two fragments of Chinese silk, found in a dump of the 1340s at Baynard's Castle.

Walking the Walls

From Roman times until after the Middle Ages the walls of London protected and enclosed the city, and were studded with fortified entrances at places such as Bishopsgate, Moorgate, Ludgate and Aldgate.

The walls, and their gates, have almost entirely vanished. Now a London Wall Walk has been instituted, complete with a guidebook which was published last year.

Four years of planning went into the Walk, which

consists of a series of illustrated panels strategically placed along the line of the former walls. "It provides the visitor to the City of London with an informed history trail along two thirds of the wall's circuit from the Tower of London to the Museum of London", says Ms Jenny Hall, of the Museum of London.

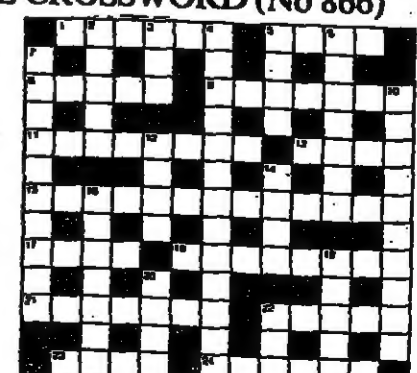
There are no visible remains beyond the Museum (which lies just west of the Cripplegate Fort on the north-western angle of the circuit) which justify an extension to Blackfriars, she says, but the numbering scheme of the panels will allow new discoveries to be incorporated.

There are 21 blue and white ceramic panels in the Walk, of which the first is the medieval postern gate near the Tower excavated a few years ago, and the fourth a section of the Roman wall and a tower base preserved in a new office block at Vine Street.

Norman Hammond

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 866)

- ACROSS
1 Pre game exercise (4,2)
13 Crippled (4)
8 Nasty (5)
9 Casual (7)
11 Final (6)
13 Thin (4)
15 Game-killing time (7,6)
17 Personal air (4)
18 Gambler's pot (8)
21 Baseball field (7)
22 Sport-based drink (5)
23 Stray (4)
24 Frying (5)



- DOWN
2 Terminage prematurely (5)
3 Hawthorn (3)
4 Fatty acid compound (13)
5 House (4)
6 Child's rash (7)
7 Tilled soil (10)
10 Devil study (10)
12 Principal (4)
14 Secrets disclosure (4)
22 Mayday call (1,1,1,1)

SOLUTION TO No 865
ACROSS: 1 Rocco 2 Cumin 3 Escalope 4 Shrove Tuesday 5 Lush 6 Cabinet 7 Tremor 12 Clothier 14 Outvote 15 Blocks 16 Asses 19 Opals 20 Spat

THE TIMES DIARY

Single-minded

An embarrassing legal fight between the Labour Party and its former local government officer is about to go to a seventh round. Barbara Turner, who is divorced, discovered she was unable to pass her pension entitlement onto her three children. After two court hearings, four industrial tribunals and an Employment Appeal Tribunal, she is still determined to prove that passing pension rights after death only onto married partners infringes the Sex Discrimination Act and EEC directives. Labour, however, has just decided to defend the rule at yet another employment appeal. Previously, it asked her for £5,000 costs after a hearing found against her — a request dismissed as "startling" by the tribunal. The funny thing is that in Larry Whitty's 1983 *Pensioners' Rights* in the *Women's*, Labour's general secretary complains that many pension schemes do discriminate against women. "Such discrimination also ignores the fact that many women have dependants," he writes. You said it, Larry.

House work

The deadlock between the government and the Commons select committee on defence caused by the Westland leak affair is likely to be discussed. I understand, by the House's liaison committee on Thursday. The committee, comprising representatives of all the other select committees, monitors the relationship between government and Parliament, and will discuss constitutional aspects of the row. The most pressing matter is whether the investigatory role of select committees, which shadow the departments of state, can function if the executive refuses to allow civil servants like Collette Bowe to give evidence.

Winding down

Leon Brittan. I can reveal, is not spending all his new-found leisure time worrying. He is having fun playing with one of his favourite Christmas presents: a clockwork helicopter given by one of his cheeky journalist buddies. "I am delighted with it. You simply wind it up, aim it correctly and it rescues toy children from a boiling sea with the help of magnets," says Brittan. Simply winding up the Westland affair remains, of course, another matter.

BARRY FANTONI



"Do we bid for her memoirs now or after the Fulham by-election?"

Car choke

Top marks to the Police Federation monthly. *Police*, for this one. A Liverpool youth, arrested for wrapping a stolen car around a lamp post, took advantage of the new procedures under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act by demanding a particular lawyer by name. Duly rung, the lawyer said he knew the chap and would come down at once. Two hours passed, however, before he finally arrived, gasping: "Sorry I'm late but someone's stolen my car." The change sheet all too quickly revealed the thief's identity.

● And I thought I was bad about returning library books. A fines amnesty in Coteshead has tempted the return of 5,000 books — including some which are 25 years overdue.

No Tessa

David Steel's personal secretary for the past 12 years, Tessa Horton, has announced she is leaving the Liberal Party to open up a health food shop in Clapham. This comes only a month after his other secretary, Beverly Miles, left to become a parliamentary consultant. His two trusted minders, who helped him through the Republic of Ireland's police force, a souvenir from a recent international conference. He carefully draped his coat over the briefcase and was later seen smuggling it out of the building, clutched awkwardly to his chest.

Coat-racked

There was consternation when executive members of the Northern Ireland Police Federation met unionist leaders Ian Paisley and Jim Molyneux for an unpublished pow-wow before the recent Ulster by-elections. One of the Federation officials realized, to his horror, that he was carrying a briefcase from the Republic of Ireland's police force, a souvenir from a recent international conference. He carefully draped his coat over the briefcase and was later seen smuggling it out of the building, clutched awkwardly to his chest.

PHS

Punjab: Gandhi's new gamble

by Michael Hamlyn

Delhi Some Indians believe that Rajiv Gandhi has failed in his policies to restore peace to Punjab. They say the situation in the holy city of Amritsar is becoming as bad as in 1983, when armed Sikh extremists led by Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale were organizing disaffection and shouting their defiance of Delhi from the sanctuary of the Golden Temple.

Soon, it is feared, there may be another confrontation on the lines of Operation Blue Star, when the army stormed the temple and set in motion the chain of events that led to Mrs Gandhi's assassination.

More likely, however, are seeing a vindication of Gandhi's policies. Admittedly the extremists are again in charge of the temple, the holiest shrine of the Sikh religion. Hooligans from Sant Bhindranwale's former temple, the Dardara Taksa, recently seized control of the building and called a *sarbat khalsa* — a general assembly of baptized Sikhs — a move unprecedented for 200 years.

Sikh religious and political power is supposed to spring directly from the wishes of the community, and the militants rammed through a series of resolutions dismissing the temple management and the head

priests, excommunicating India's president (a Sikh) and the only Sikh in the central government, the agriculture minister, Bura Singh.

Today the portrait of Sant Bhindranwale, who was killed in Operation Blue Star, hangs prominently in the temple, and the flag of the separatist Sikh state of Khalistan — the word *Om*, or God, in black on a saffron ground — flies over the Akal Takht, the throne of Sikh power.

Militants are dismantling the Akal Takht, which they say was desecrated when rebuilt under government supervision after being badly damaged in the army assault.

The failure of the central government, its critics believe, lies in handing over power in Punjab to a weak government of the Sikh religious party, the Akali Dal, and by weakening its influence still further by failing to implement last July's accord between Delhi and the state government and handing over the state capital, Chandigarh, to Punjab alone by Republic Day, January 26.

Chandigarh is still the joint capital of both Punjab and Haryana state, and the extremists make much of the fact that the Punjab state government of Akali moderates has so far no solid achievements it can point to.

Sikh sentiments have been further disturbed by the death sentences imposed on Mrs Gandhi's murderer and his co-conspirators, and the sentences on the hijackers of an Indian airliner by Pakistan, no doubt influenced by a desire to achieve better relations with Delhi.

But the truth is that both sides in the Punjab accord put themselves into the present fix over Chandigarh by agreeing that it should be handed over "simultaneously" with the transfer of some Hindi-speaking areas to Haryana in exchange.

Both sides agreed that the principle of contiguity should be a consideration when deciding the areas to be transferred despite the fact that the two districts that Haryana had in mind, Ambala and Fazilka, are not in fact contiguous to it.

The Akalis offered instead 31 other Hindi-speaking villages in the less prosperous Patiala district, close to Chandigarh, but the Haryana chief minister turned this down.

The central government could lean on the chief minister, Bhajan Lal, but Gandhi could not afford agitation in two adjoining states, and in any case he has been warned that his

Congress party could lose control of Haryana if he did so.

Non-Congress parties rule in states speaking languages other than Hindi, but if Haryana fell it would be a serious blow into the Congress's Hindi-speaking heartland and something that Gandhi's advisers are anxious to avoid.

Whether or not Gandhi's critics are correct in judging his policies a failure is to be tested on February 16. The Punjab government, led by Surjit Singh Barnala, has announced a *sarbat khalsa* of its own. If sufficient moderate Sikhs turn up it will be able to regain control of the Golden Temple, restore the management committee, and drive the extremists away.

The auguries are good. The moderate Akalis have always defeated the extremists when it has come to an appeal to the Sikh public, as in elections. Recently an extremist-led *rasta roko* — an attempt to block the roads by mass demonstrations — was a failure.

If Surjit Singh succeeds, the problem of Sikh extremism will have been handled and solved by a Sikh government, and not by the external force of the Hindu-dominated central government. That, for Gandhi, would be a considerable achievement.

George Schoplin on the Kadar succession struggle

Will Hungary go on leaning West?

A *Pravda* article in January about Hungary, critical of the country's Western connections, sent cold shivers through most of the people who were aware of it in Budapest. It marked renewed Soviet disapproval of what many in the West regard as Hungary's "liberalization". But it should be seen for what it is — part of the power struggle in the Hungarian leadership and a way to frighten supporters of the more open course in foreign relations that Hungary has been following, with Soviet approval, for many years.

This power struggle is at the back of the extraordinary sense of drift that one finds in Hungary at the moment. The two favourite words about the situation heard in every conversation are "fluid" and "crumbling". There is no sense of purpose or direction in the leadership. It is in any case deeply divided by a number of major issues.

The most cogent comment that a senior party official could make in a lengthy conversation was, "We are building democracy and socialism here. It will take 15 to 20 years." This is hardly different from saying that one would like the sun to shine.

Several intractable factors have combined to worsen the drift that afflicts Hungary. Succession is the most significant. Janos Kadar, who in October will have been party leader for 30 years, is now 73. The elite has come to recognize that he must soon leave the political stage and its factions are engaged in a power struggle.

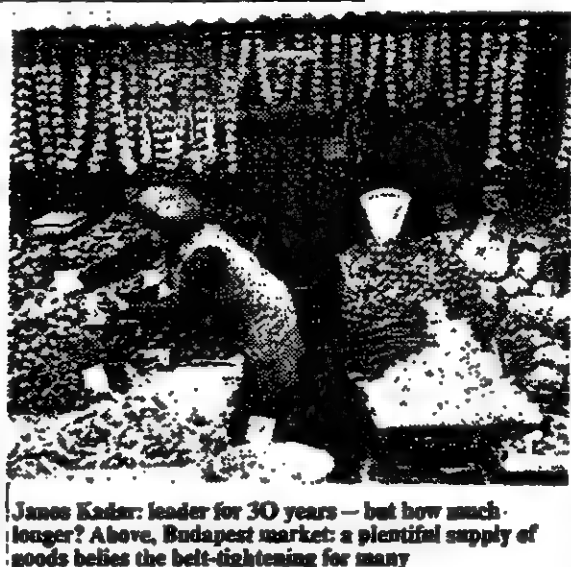
There are four main currents in conflict. The Kadarists aim to keep things as they have been. They have no new magic formula and are content with reiterating that in the Kadar era Hungarians have never had it so good.

Second, there are the neo-hardliners, close to Moscow, who regard Kadarism as something of an aberration and would like to shift Hungary towards a more orthodox system — to become a poor man's East Germany, as someone unkindly commented.

Thirdly, the economic pragmatists want to maintain the present Western orientation and accept that the discharging of Hungary's debt, of about \$9 billion, means a serious burden on consumers. But the only way forward is to make industry more efficient by pushing ahead with genuine reform as distinct from the tinkering of the last two or three years. They are concerned that Hungary will be left out of the revolution in information technology, that it will never reach world market levels in the quality of its output and that it will slide quickly towards Third World levels.

Last, there is the so-called "trade union opposition", which is well organized. It articulates the interests, above all, of those branches of industry which are least efficient — the commanding depths of the economy, in a word. This current does not accept Hungary's Western orientation, does not believe that the need to trade on the world market is all that important and insists that the relatively privileged position of sections of the manual working class must be safeguarded.

These factions can all call on considerable support within the elite. For the moment, they have weakened the ability of the leadership to provide a sense of direction. This has its advantages. In the short term, there is an amazing diversity and even informal pluralism. The economic aspect of this is the most



James Kadar: leader for 30 years — but how much longer? Above, Budapest market: plentiful supply of goods belies the belt-tightening for many

visible, notably in the upmarket boutiques around the Vaci utca so beloved of Western television crews looking for capitalism in the communist world. They seldom venture to Budapest's less salubrious districts.

Even more extraordinary is the variety of cultural and semi-political activism. Some 300 private foundations are officially registered and administer their funds without state interference. One or two of these are close to the threshold of politics, such as a foundation to provide aid and support for the Hungarian minority in Transylvania.

The views of the political reformers, who are in no way connected to the opposition which publishing in *samizdat* can be starting in its radicalism. Many of them feel that the system as it now operates has exhausted its options, that only thorough-going political change — not pragmatic shifts in emphasis — can achieve what Hungary needs: revitalization and recovery of purpose. Without popular involvement in political decision-making which is genuine rather than cosmetic, the drift will continue. And if it goes on for much longer, the ever more visible and alarming trends in society will become irreversible.

Two patterns are most evident. Atomization is one of these. There is a minimum of trust between people, transactions are carried out in an atmosphere of suspicion and the criteria by which a society decides what is positive and what is negative are eroding. This undermines a sense of community. In the public

context, this can be seen in the continuous, low-level aggressiveness which permeates people's dealings with one another.

Second, the only reliable yardstick left is money. The chase for money is extraordinary and is made worse by the deterioration of living standards over the last few years. Hungarians claim that they already put in the highest number of working hours per day in Europe. Irritation and stress are relieved by drinking. Heart disease is increasing. The suicide rate is very high, and rising.

Often people expect to receive a certain amount of money regardless of whether they perform a service in exchange. This can go to ridiculous lengths. At the elegant Pannonia Hotel in Pecs, I was woken at 4.30 am by two waiters demanding that I settle a bar bill at once. They hoped I would be too befuddled with sleep to argue about the rather inflated amount and would just pay up. They forgot that foreigners use credit cards.

At a deeper level, Hungarian society seems to have lost not just the unity that was so evident during the 1956 revolution: its sense of ethical cohesiveness is disappearing too. People's loyalties are overwhelmingly to themselves and maybe to their immediate families. Their concept of the future is very short-term and vague. If they have expectations, these are neutral or negative. While there may be a good deal of hope to be made just now, the future looks bleak. Unless far-reaching change is introduced. And there is little sign that the leadership has the energy or determination to do it.

Breathing old life back into poetry

The award of the Whitbread prize to Douglas Dunn honours a fine poet and remarkable book — *Elegies*, poems written in memory of his wife, whose early death tore his life apart. It also emphasizes what has become apparent in the past dozen years: that poetry, which had threatened either to dwindle into insignificant occasional verse or to become something hermetic, accessible only to initiates, is on the way to regaining its position as the literary form most capable of conveying feeling.

Dunn's elegies render an experience that is, in his own words, "common as dirt". "How strenuously the English language has gone out of its way in recent years to avoid the lyric cry," he says. "Contemporary poetry has sidestepped what most ordinary people expect from poetry." *Elegies* meets that expectation head-on.

Dunn was born in 1942 in a Renfrewshire village called Inchinnan overlooking the Clyde. He describes his background as "ordinary working-class", adding that "with a few exceptions Scots poets come from the lower end of society". This, in his opinion, is one of the historical differences between Scots and English poets (although this is changing in England), and perhaps one reason why the language of Scots poetry has always been direct.

He trained as a librarian, married young and went to a job in Ohio. The affinity between the west of Scotland and the United States has often been noted,

Glasgow having been described as the most easterly American city. The consciousness of democratic equality on which Scots pride themselves is especially strong in western Scotland.

Rudyard Kipling brought the Scots engineer into literature, and Dunn picks up the theme in a poem, *Ships*:

*They leave restless boys without work in the river towns.
In their houses are fading pictures of fathers ringed
Among ships' complements in wartime, model destroyers,
Souvenirs from uncles deep in distant engine-rooms.
Then the boys go out down streets that look on water.
They say "I could have gone with them."
A thousand times to themselves in the glass cafes.
Over their American soft drinks, into their empty hands.
The directness, the sense of a voice speaking straight to the reader with deep feeling, is evident; the expression is classical in its precision.*

As a boy Dunn read more history and poetry than fiction, though he is now a notable short-story writer. Most of the stories having appeared first in the *New Yorker*. Faber (publisher of *Elegies*) put out a collection called *The Secret Village* last year, and issues a paperback edition soon.

Dunn came back to study English at Hull, and then worked as a librarian there. Philip Larkin was a senior colleague, and Dunn acknowledges his influence, although "more in things I heard



Douglas Dunn: precision and depth of feeling

him talk about" than his poetry. For all the romanticism associated with Scotland and the idea of Scotland, many of the best Scottish poets have written with classical clarity and sense of order. It's the directness again which you find in the ballads, in Burns in Scotland and in Byron, whom he has edited.

You get it too in modern poets such as Garoche, MacCaig and Crichton-Smith, often in MacDiarmid, and very evidently in Douglas Dunn. John Buchan wrote of "the sharp concrete experience" you find in Scots poetry. That phrase might have been carved for Dunn. Yet the melody is always there. "Scots poetry," he observes, "has never been deficient in lyricism."

His poetry is always open to the reader. There's nothing poetical in his language, for the poetry

comes from real life: yet it has never dragged down to a pedestrian level. The intensity of feeling ensures its vitality, and the discipline of form its dignity.

He writes in English and has used Scots only for dialogue in radio plays and fiction. Yet it is, we agree, English with a difference. Scots English. Somebody, incidentally, should do some work on Scots English. This might well start with Dunn himself or Muriel Spark, whose writing even now retains as Edinburgh intonation. Muriel Spark has said that the word "nevertheless" was the pivot of her education, and that she writes novels on the nevertheless principle. I would say "nevertheless" is strong in Dunn also. It represents an insistence on seeing both sides of a question.

Dunn is now working on a novel set in the west of Scotland in the 1930s, and on a long poem. How long? "About a thousand lines. Nowadays they call it a long poem if it goes over the page." But it will be a poem with a narrative element. As we get older, narrative seems more to be valued in poetry as in fiction, though Dunn also likes "spacious digressive imaginative novels".

Certainly, the poem will be accessible and not shy of emotion. It will, like *Elegies*, be undeniably poetry. The Whitbread award could not have gone to a poet more easy to admire without reservation.

Allan Massie

Digby Anderson

Living it up on Grub Street

This column is usually cautious about ambitious solutions to complicated social problems, so it is a pleasure when a case arises to which there is an obvious and practical, if only partial, remedy. At first sight, it concerns Julie, a student struggling to make ends meet on her grant, but on closer inspection it might concern many students who are campaigning for more of the taxpayers' money, and indeed many who are not students but, for one reason or another, have problems paying for the standard of living they expect.

Julie's income and expenditure were revealed in a recent *Sunday Times* article about student grants. Julie does not lead an unpleasant life — she spends £15 a week on drink and entertainment — but she overspends. As we might expect, this overspending was presented by the article as a problem requiring a political solution — i.e. a bigger grant; in fact, part of the solution clearly lies in Julie's own hands. She does not get maximum value for her money. The largest single item in her list of expenditure is food: £18 a week plus £5 a week on "basic foodstuffs and toiletries" — of which, say, £3 is on basic foodstuffs — a total of £21. And what does she eat? What is the result of this not inconsiderable sum in the hands of one of the most intelligent sections of the population? "Basic foods, such as fish pie and cauliflower cheese... £21 worth of cauliflower cheese?"

What could be done? Tuesday breakfast: 2 boiled duck eggs (15p), toast — I assume home-made bread throughout — (4p), butter (4p), tea (3p). Dinner: potato salad (6p) — steam and reserve two extra potatoes; sprats (use recipes for anchovies, e.g. alicia al gratin or sardines Neapolitan), 8 oz sprats (20p), breadcrumbs, tomatoes etc (8p); pigeon aux olives (pot roast 30p plus 10p); stilton (20p); aranci caramellizzati (20p); coffee and amaretti (7p), bread (4p).

Throughout the week these quantities allow enough over for sandwiches next day or to cater, with easy additional ingredients, for an unexpected guest. Wednesday breakfast: Grilled pig's kidney (18p) with saute potatoes (from Monday) (4p), tea (3p). Dinner: soupe de poisson, croissants, rouille (acquire the fish heads and bones when you buy the sprats (probably free), but add a few mussels and their juice (30p) — reserve six of the steam-opened mussels for Thursday; hock of pork, boned and rolled

(75p), stuffed with garlic, parsley, and diced coppa — get the end of one cheap (10p). Serve with baked onions (8p). After dinner, boil a whole bone with pigeon carcass and any remaining onions for stock. Green salad (12p); glazed pear (12p) in red wine (25p); coffee (5p). Bread (4p). Thursday breakfast: Crumpets (20p), tea (3p). Dinner: salade de tomates et moules; risotto con funghi — rice (15p); stock from Wednesday; mushrooms (25p); grilled chicken wings (50p) with lemon (12p); stilton (20p) with celery (20p); coffee (5p), bread (4p).

Friday breakfast: Anchovy toast (10p), tea (3p). Dinner: cucumber in yoghurt (32p); grilled spiced mackerel (30p); lentil puree (8p) with fresh coriander (25p); fruit (whatever is cheap, 12p); coffee (5p), bread (4p).

Saturday breakfast: Home-made sausages (pork belly, 35p); bread (4p), tea (3p). Dinner for two: spaghetti con melanzane (pasta 25p, aubergines, 50p; Cerveses au beurre noir (use bullock's brains 80p); braised celery (remainder of Thursday's), salad (40p); stilton (30p); coffee (10p), Bread (8p). And so on for Sunday and Monday, when you are taken out for dinner by the chap who came on Saturday.

The total bill will be about £13. Some items may have been forgotten but the point remains. One can eat excellently for well under Julie's total. But more generally, some of those who can't live on their incomes have a problem of personal budgeting rather than political oppression. This is particularly true of certain items such as food where knowledge, time and work can save considerable expenditure.

Many of these items, readily available from butcher's shops, would cost three times as much on the Continent, where their culinary value is appreciated; indeed, the fact that ingredients such as fish-heads, bones, pig's extremities (ears, tails, heads) are regularly thrown or given away by retailers in Thatcher's allegedly harsh Britain shows that it is not a case of the odd student who has not yet learned to cater and cook. These prices are low or zero because next to no one knows about God's good things, has the taste to enjoy them, or can be bothered to prepare them.

There may be more talk about good food, and even occasionally a little more good food among an interested few, but most Britons eat less well than they could and spend much more on food than they need.

moreover... Miles Kington

Auntie's place in the country

The other day I visited a large building, cordoned off from the surrounding town, where they are producing a daily newspaper in conditions of some secrecy, and, extraordinarily, it isn't owned by Rupert Murdoch or Eddie Shah or anyone like that. It's owned by the BBC. Caversham Park, on the outskirts of Reading, is where the BBC Monitoring Service listens to news broadcasts from all over the world, and every day puts out a 90,000-word digest of what it has heard, called *Summary of World Broadcasts*.

The secrecy attached to the SWB is quite accidental — it's simply that most people haven't heard of it. The circulation is only a little over 2,000, and the main customers are Fleet Street papers, foreign embassies, British government departments and large companies — anyone, in fact, who might want to know which way the wind is blowing before anyone else has noticed there's a wind at all. The day I was there everyone was muttering a lot about South Yemen, and it wasn't for another day or two that I started reading about Aden's troubles in the papers.

Not that they attach much importance to boosting circulation. As I was there to help prepare a talk for Radio 2, I was allowed into the "morning prayers" meeting where they swap the latest hot news and developments; it reminded me not so much of an editorial meeting as a get-together of Oxford dons — professional, sharp and underspoken.

Thanks were voted to the Arab section, which had been doing double shifts to cover Colonel Gaddafi's latest outpourings. We were told what Moscow had been saying about the Yemen. The African experts vouchsafed the news that Zaire's export figures of bat dung were up again. Someone, bemused, asked him what bat dung was used for. He said he would look into it.

Next door to Caversham Park there is an even more obscure BBC department. Written Archives, where they have kept not only all the scripts they could lay their hands on but a host of letters, complaints, memos, plans, reports and soft answers turning away wrath. Amanda, who was showing me around, was bubbling with excitement at the stuff she keeps finding.

"Here's something I found the other day — the first letter that Gerald Haffington ever wrote to the BBC, covered with his drawings. And here's a very odd letter about Guy Burgess."

Odd indeed. Someone had written in 1937 saying he had heard the BBC wanted a young man to take part in an Anglo-Russian programme and recommending Burgess. He knows Russia well, said the letter, though his politics are liberal Tory, rather like Harold Macmillan's. The BBC answer said that as Burgess had been a communist at Cambridge, he did not seem quite right for the part.

"There's another letter about Burgess, from 1951," said Amanda. "Apparently he had borrowed some books from the BBC library several years before and never returned them. Well, suddenly these books had been returned to the BBC front desk in September 1951, but the writer of the note asks the librarian not to make a song and dance about it, as the Foreign Office is very anxious to establish Mr Burgess's whereabouts."

In other words, one of the last things Burgess had done before defecting was to clear his guilty conscience about his years-overdue library books. Curious how the human mind works. Wondering if I, too, could turn up some amazing discovery, I opened a box of papers when Amanda wasn't looking and found a series of BBC audition reports from 1958. There was a man who had twisted 13 plates on sticks. Nice, said the report, but not really right for the radio. There was an Indian singer called Raj Kumar. Nice, said the report, but a bit lacking in character. Also, he has previously auditioned under the name of Jamie Farrar.

I left feeling the pleasure you get from having scratched the top of a barrel of treasures, from having touched on the million different routes the human mind can take. My two strongest memories are of seeing a Russian monitor watching Moscow television (a programme for chess beginners — nice to know they're not all experts in Russia) and of hearing the latest inquiry that had come Amanda's way.

A lady rang up and asked how Bill and Ben, the Flowerpot Men, had dressed from the waist down. Well, she said, her two children were going to a fancy dress party as Bill and Ben; she could remember their top halves but not the rest.

The BBC lays on this service of public information free. It's the sort of thing that suddenly restores all the faith in the Beeb that had been taken away by that John Cleese advertisement.



BEWARE SAFE HANDS

The bush telegraph from the Conservative back benches beats out a threatening note. The natives are restless. The message is filtered through the loyalist and not so loyalist press. It is occasionally contradicted. But still it keeps coming.

The codeword is "a safe pair of hands", a metaphor borrowed from cricket and more usually applied to middle-ranking civil servants and executives than to matters of national leadership. This is the phrase that hangs on so many lips, that appears in so many newspaper profiles, that is in turn repeated on more lips and recycled into further prognostications of the parliamentary mood. Sir Geoffrey Howe has a safe pair of hands. So has Mr Douglas Hurd. Mr Norman Tebbit and Mr Peter Walker perhaps do not. Thus do last year's potential titans become this year's nearly has-beens as the drum of rumour drones on.

The Prime Minister's friends can be forgiven for taking a fairly indulgent attitude to most of this. Politicians have always thrived on talk of sackings and succession. While some of the key players may have been planning their leadership campaigns from their ministerial cradles, the supremacy of Mrs Thatcher during the past decade has made speculation rather dull and plotting mostly pointless. The fact that Sir Anthony Meyer and others are now letting their true feelings show should lead no one in Downing Street to lose sleep.

That is not to say, however, that the Westland saga can be safely left, like some ill-crafted melodrama, to fade away to the final curtain. Until the Prime Minister accedes to the wishes of the select committee on defence and allows those now so well-known civil servants to answer questions about the afternoon of January 6th, the fears and the murmurings will go on. There is no alternative.

POLISH JUSTICE IN ACTION

Next week Lech Walesa is due to stand trial, accused of "slandering" some of the country's electoral officers by announcing Solidarity's own estimate of the turnout in last autumn's parliamentary elections. The precise details of the charge are unimportant, since this is a purely political trial. Poland's law books now contain so many elastic paragraphs that the authorities could certainly have found an offence to charge him with at any time.

Why are the Polish authorities making such a highly-charged political move now? The Soviet Party Congress meets this month, his own party congress is scheduled for June, and General Jaruzelski may feel that this is an opportune moment to demonstrate that he, like Mr Gorbachev, has "iron teeth."

Yet the answer is probably that they now reckon they can get away with it. For the Polish authorities have themselves long wanted to do to Walesa what they have already done to almost every other Solidarity leader who has remained politically active, and whom they have managed to lay hands on.

TAKING THE GOSPEL TO THE CITIES

The dust has settled since the Church of England's last intervention in national political debate, its essay in December on the inner city. The Government has subsequently settled for an attitude of politeness towards the initiative, a shrewd response that might have commended itself earlier, for surely there is not much political profit in quarrels with clerics. The air has cleared for discussion of the role of the Church of England in the inner city — what ought to have been the Commission's main interest anyway. The General Synod which begins today will devote the larger part of its meeting to this more ecclesiastical side of the matter, appropriately, because this is where churchmen have the benefit of expertise.

They would be wise, never the less, to weigh carefully the advice the Commission is giving them. There is both an opportunity and a trap ahead of them.

The Commission advanced

to the fullest, frankest (and probably the fullest) degree of disclosure if the impetus of Mrs Thatcher's administration is not to be dragged back.

It has long been a paradox of this government that its greatest successes have been achieved with barely more than the tacit approval of its elected representatives, often in the teeth of their opposition. The giant gains of privatisation, trade union reform and anti-inflation strategy would never have been made under the guidance of a safe pair of hands.

Mrs Thatcher knows that Sir Anthony Meyer is at the tip of a substantial iceberg. She knows too that the barrier to good government which he and his kind represent is one which she has charted, skirted, ignored (and too often fled from) for many years. What she does not seem to know is that there is another iceberg which is hovering in view. It is made up not just of those who are cautious about policies, nervous about their electoral chances, and utterly uninterested in anything but being an MP; it is formed from those who are afraid that the Prime Minister will slowly and painfully be revealed to be involved in a sordid-looking cover-up. Only quick action on her part can stop that becoming the obstacle beneath which she could be crushed.

And then what? If Westland is taken off the agenda of her friends and party colleagues, remaining only as a nasty echo in the speeches of her opponents, what can be done to put the government back on course? The same rumour machine that is producing thoughts of succession is also generating alleged plans for an emergency re-think of government strategy. It is a tempting prospect to believe that this is what is required. It is especially tempting to those in the cabinet and outside who think that the neglect of their advice in the past has brought

the government to its present state. Mrs Thatcher would do well to tread carefully before she sets any such process in motion. Her most important policies are long-term in their intention and long-term in their effect. That is the way they should stay.

The most important short-term priority is to ensure that long-planned programmes are carried through to fruition. Those, for example, who have always opposed the privatisation of British Airways can now see the prospect of its cancellation. They can look at some small US law suits and argue that, with all its other troubles, this is a boat that the government should leave resolutely unrocked, if it has half a chance to do so. It is important that this decision and others like it continue to be judged on their original merits.

The second priority is to begin the process of preparing policies for the third term, of continuing the commitment to change which is Mrs Thatcher's most singular contribution to British public life. There remains much to be done in the coordination of education and training, in the relaxation of planning regulations and rent controls, in the weaning of the electorate away from the distortive lure of tax rebates and preferential privileges.

None of these will come as shafts of original light to those who sit around the policy planning tables. They are the issues that have suffered from faint-hearted ministers, insufficient thought and from too long a sojourn in the Prime Minister's "too hard" tray. They are the issues that require the hardest thinking if they are to have a chance to survive in the political battles ahead. They are the issues that divide those who wish Mrs Thatcher's achievements to be entrusted to safe hands from those who can recognise an incomplete job and have the will to see its completion.

Making us all less bemused

From Lord Lansdowne
Sir, For those of your readers who may not have seen the letter addressed to you on January 27 by Mr Anthony Swainson, I quote two sentences from it:

The man in the street is bemused. It is the Government's duty and self-interest to keep the voter properly informed of the facts, rather than having to rely upon sensational journalism designed to sell newspapers and attract viewers of television.

During the miners' strike, through your columns, I begged the Prime Minister to address the nation and tell us the facts. I believe that many of us were bemused then, also, by confusing and sensational reports.

Prime Minister's question time in Parliament is a fine democratic institution, but it is not enough in these days of rapid mass communication.

May I once again, through your columns, urge the Prime Minister to give greater consideration to the bemused man in the street by giving regular televised Press conferences to keep us properly informed of the facts? If such constituted "party political broadcasts" I believe party managers would find that the allotted time was well spent.

Yours faithfully,
LANDSDOWNE,
House of Lords,
January 28.

In the bag

From Dr J.W. King
Sir, Apropos the acceptance of new technology, one wonders whether even in high places modern alternatives are always given due consideration.

I understand that a debate is currently in progress about whether the Woolcock should be refilled with wool or horsehair. I have not heard any mention of the possible use of a man-made stuffing. Surely at least one good British factory could produce something which would satisfy the twin criteria of comfort and durability.

Imagine, Sir, the pleasure of explaining to foreigners that the Woolcock no longer contained what once upon a time it used to, thereby proving that as a nation we have indeed accepted the spirit of the twentieth century.

Yours sincerely,
J. W. KING,
8 Potters Cross,
Bangors Road South,
Iver Heath,
Buckinghamshire,
January 30.

From Dr Nicholas Jeffs
Sir, Concerning the contents of the Woolcock, the Lord Chancellor may be in greater discomfort than previously suspected by your correspondent.

Dr Barbara Reynolds (January 22). The relevant passage is from "The Entertaining Episode of the Article in Question" in Lord Peter Views the Body. It reads: It was his idiotic enquiries as to what the Woolcock was really stuffed with that led the then Lord Chancellor idly to investigate the article in question, and to discover, tucked deep within its recesses, that famous diamond necklace of the Marchioness of Wringle.

Diamonds are considerably harder than emeralds. As to the idleness of the then Lord Chancellor, I am not qualified to speculate.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS JEFFS,
28 Ladbroke Avenue,
Luton,
Bedfordshire,
January 23.

Policies of 'Freeze'

From Dr William Howard
Sir, I wish to clarify several key points raised in Bernard Levin's recent column (January 15) on the new Nuclear Weapons Freeze organisation.

The simple answer to his main question — is Freeze a front or stalking horse for CND? — is most definitely no. If Mr Levin had consulted Freeze's widely distributed leaflet, instead of the advertisement which he quotes, he would have read: "Freeze campaigns for a halt (to the testing, production and deployment of new nuclear weapons) and not for unilateral disarmament by Britain or any other country."

Mr Levin may have difficulty understanding the Freeze philosophy because it does not conform to the sterile and polarised nuclear debate of the last five years in Britain. International arms control has been missing from this discussion. Freeze has been formed to fill this gap and reflect a new consensus in this country.

In this nuclear age, when the security of nations is interlocked, of course a "freeze" would have to be mutual and verifiable. The USSR has indicated it may be willing to take this course. Now is the time to see if they mean it.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM HOWARD,
Freeze National Coordinator,
82 Colston Street,
Bristol,
Avon.

The Times regrets that it is temporarily unable to notify correspondents whose letters are not selected for publication.

Lessons from space disaster

From Mr J. L. Hudson

Sir, The tragic loss of the shuttle Challenger, and its crew of seven has once again raised the issue of the place of man in space. In his article today (January 30) your Science Correspondent would seem to favour the development of remote probes and satellites.

The great success of Voyager 2 at Uranus shows indeed what the remote robot craft are capable of. This seems to me, however, a short-sighted view. If one surveys the story of our species in the long term, then surely one characteristic is its evolutionary infiltration into ever more diverse environments so that today mankind can be found over the entire face of our earth.

Viewed on this historical perspective it is clear that we are privileged to be witnessing the first tentative steps of mankind into the endless ocean of space. In this exploration there will be setbacks and disasters as there have been in the past with the exploration of the seas and air.

It would be much to our shame if future generations were to look back and say that the free world failed to recognise its role in mankind's destiny at this exciting and challenging time.

Yours faithfully,
J. L. HUDSON,
107 Appledore Avenue,
Wollaton,
Nottingham,
January 30.

From Mrs Carol Bundoock
Sir, Seven people died as the result of a fault in a multi-billion dollar venture — thousands die daily from lack of food. For whom should we grieve more and where should our attentions be turned?

Yours etc,
CAROL BUNDOOCK,
Chapel End,
Norwich Road,
Corpus,
Norwich,
Norfolk,
January 29.

From Mr Henry Knowles

Sir, I am sure that we are appalled at the catastrophic shuttle that the American space shuttle has suffered and that we share some of the grief that the families of the seven astronauts are now feeling. It is for this reason that I think we should all show some compassion and not subject them to the rigours of having that grief publicly shown on the news and in the papers for all to see.

Unfriendly outposts

From Mr Terence Richardson
Sir, As a British expatriate with over 13 years' residence in the Turks and Caicos Islands, I would like to correct and amplify some of Mr Hetherington's statements (January 6) regarding these islands.

Applicants for citizenship based on residence may only apply for and receive British Dependent Territories' citizenship (BDTC) status. Belonger status is generally acquired through birth here or through parents who were born here. BDTC status has no particular meaning in the application of local ordinances as it has not been incorporated into the local ordinances.

If one acquired one's citizenship by application then one's business licence application, for example, may still be refused, as only belongers may receive business licences by right. This two-tier citizenship, belonger and British Dependent Territories citizenship, as conducted by the British Government, is as distasteful as that in South Africa, but as a reverse situation is unlikely to appeal to those who usually criticise such injustice.

Long-term residents of these islands may not expect to automatically receive citizenship on application following a period of residence. One must first obtain a permanent resident's certificate which application usually goes unanswered.

Although a British citizen may vote after he/she has been here five years, and may even stand for election after 15 years' residence, he/she cannot, according to the Governor and the Attorney General's office, ever

Food poisoning

From Mr Eric Silvester

Sir, A major factor in respect of food poisoning and salmonella infections generally, and so far not mentioned, is that, unlike so many other trades, professions and activities affecting other people, there is no statutory obligation for proprietors and managers of food premises to prove their competence (such as, for example, in the driving test) to deal satisfactorily and safely with the food in their care.

It is still legally permissible for an ignorant to start up and manage a food shop or catering business, and the tragedy is that it is just what some of them have done through the years, lacking even an elementary knowledge of food hygiene, requiring much individual on-site correction and education. I make this observation from my experience of 33 years as an environmental health officer, now retired.

In the interests of public health there is need to correct this situation.

Yours sincerely,
ERIC SILVESTER,
57 Park Avenue,
Chippingham,
Wiltshire.

It is hard enough coming to terms with such a tragic loss as this without feeling that it has been shown worldwide.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY KNOWLES,
West Bank,
Uppingham,
Rutland.

From Mr Robert A. McDougall
Sir, To quote your leader of this morning (January 30): "The presence on the Challenger of Mrs Christina McAuliffe, a teacher, her vocation an expression of faith in the future..." leads me to wonder from which profession the British Government would have selected their first civilian astronaut.

I fear that teachers would come very far down the list.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT A. MCDUGALL,
Co-proprietor,
The Red Lion,
Market Street,
Dalton-in-Furness,
Cumbria,
January 30.

From Mr Simon Pashby
Sir, I was shocked to read about the space shuttle disaster and the tragic loss of life. I think it would be fitting if the newly discovered moons around Uranus were named in honour of the brave crew, and as a symbol of man's desire to venture into the unknown.

Yours faithfully,
S.M. PASHBY,
15 Robert Cecil Avenue,
Southampton,
Hampshire,
January 29.

From a great height

From Mr Andrew J. Wait
Sir, When William Herschel came to Bath in 1766 he no doubt noted the strange local custom of adding a letter when pronouncing Bath, i.e., "Barth".

Later, in 1781, when he discovered Uranus from his observatory in Bath, as a mark of respect for his adopted community he pronounced it "Uranus", adding the letter "i".

Whilst applauding the magnificent achievement of the American Voyager space programme, please can we not adopt the more laudatory United States pronunciation and keep faith with this obscure part of our heritage?

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW J. WAIT,
109 Manor Road,
Keynsham,
Bristol, Avon.

obtain belongethship or British Dependent Territories' citizenship and thus have the right to work and the right of abode.

The bottom line is that the British taxpayer, who foots the bills here, is at the very bottom of the list, if he can be said to be on it at all, when it comes to citizenship and security of tenure.

Developers and investors in territories such as these, particularly Americans and Canadians, come here with a sense of confidence that a British legal system is in force and law and order and an atmosphere of British fair play permeate all aspects of society. The recent decline of investors and developers here shows only too well what happens when they lose that confidence.

Yours faithfully,
TERENCE RICHARDSON,
President,
International Surveys Limited,
Surveyors/real estate brokers,
Providence, Rhode Island,
Turks and Caicos Islands,
January 27.

Staying power

From Mrs J.D. Ware
Sir, Forty years ago, and stitch by stitch, I unpicked a white, silk wartime parachute. The resultant nightdress, coupon-free and with many strange diagonal seams, is worn by me to this day.

Now a very subtle shade of off-white, it is happily reunited with a former member of The Parachute Regiment — my husband.

Yours sincerely,
CONSTANCE WARE,
Coach House,
4 Cooks Folly Road,
Bristol, Avon.

From Mr David Astor and others

Sir, We have learned of the house arrest on "national security grounds" of Mr Saleh Baransi, director of the Arab Heritage Centre in the Arab township of Tayiba in Israel. Mr Baransi is an outspoken critic of Israeli Government policy towards Israel's 650,000 Arab community.

He has always pursued his interests by legal means. His first attempt, through an independent Arab political movement, led to his imprisonment in 1970 for 10 years. He next applied, unsuccessfully, for permission to start a new university. Finally, he set up a cultural centre, which does not require a licence, with financial support from church societies in Europe and the USA.

Mr Baransi was about to leave for Europe on a fund-raising tour when he was arrested on January 12. We believe that better treatment of Mr Baransi could make a valuable contribution to Jewish-Arab relations.

Yours etc,
DAVID ASTOR,
D.W. BOWETT,
TREVOR HUDDLESTON,
ANTHONY PARSONS,
9 Cavendish Avenue, NW8,
January 30.

ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 4, 1935

The international Rugby Union season is now in full swing, as it was 51 years ago (then without France). It ended with Ireland at the top of the table with 4 points, Scotland and Wales 3 each, and Scotland 2, the latter having the consolation of winning the Calcutta Cup. Our correspondent was O.L. Owen.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

SCOTLAND BEATEN AT CARDIFF

AN AMAZING DROPPED GOAL

FROM OUR RUGBY FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

A drop-kick at a venture enabled Wales to beat Scotland at Cardiff on Saturday by one dropped goal and two tries (10 points) to two tries (6 points).

Scotland, in the broad sense, hardly could claim to have been unlucky, for their opponents, when playing against a strong wind, had scored six points to three and looked set for a much more decisive win until, just before half-time, a dreadful thing happened. D.W. Jones, the presiding genius of Rugby at the moment, Welsh and otherwise, in defending his goal line, was injured so badly that he had to retire altogether from the fray. Against a temporarily demoralised fourteen Scotland managed to draw level in the second half, but Wales then recovered and used the wind so well that the Scotsmen, for all the greatness of Beattie and others in the loose, not to mention the desperate and successful expedient of moving Shaw up into the stand-off position during the last quarter of an hour or so, mostly were pinned in their own quarters.

The dropped goal that clinched matters was an extraordinary achievement by Jenkins, the full-back, who had run up to cover a breakdown in the passing on the left only to find himself in a tangle. Just when the slow-motion which had served him so badly on several previous occasions was threatening a Scottish breakthrough into the open space behind his kicking goal, a turn and — whether by inspiration or in desperation is not for a mere spectator to say — swung his leg and sent the ball skimming over the crossbar. The crowd, which had been 40 yards. Shaw and the Scottish forwards made the match exciting enough for the 10 minutes that remained, but Wales kept their goal-line safe and Jenkins kicked to touch.

If the Scottish kicking with a powerful wind behind it had been as good as their forward play Wales must have found it infinitely easier to set up the attack than to their two tries. The first sign that there was a weakness in the Scottish defence, however, came when Powell sent out a pass direct to Beattie, who rounded Johnston with pace and, having kicked ahead past Marshall, looked as if he would match a try in that way. It required a swift dash back by Shaw to save the situation by inches. Marshall, who was close to the line, kicked and encouraged the Welsh forwards to open up the game and 10 minutes after the kick-off it was a pass from a line-out that sent Jones on his knees, clearing the way for the goal-line. Speeding ahead, yet always leaving a surprised defender a yard short of his right shoulder, Jones at last reached the goal-line fairly well of the posts...

A GREAT TRY

Wales, moreover, were now on top for a bit at forward as well as behind and inside a few minutes they were backs as a body had gone into action and added the kind of try that promised more — perhaps even many more — to come. Punting from the scrum, Jones sent the ball through a gap, and then Davey. The latter almost got home before he had time to Wooller. Here was some fine close passing and two perfect openings. It still seemed a matter of little that Jenkins could not place goals against the wind...

Scotland recovered well from this shock and soon the forwards were fairly hammering at the Welsh line. One tremendous blow by Beattie led to another — a drop at goal by Grieve being charged down in the meantime — and then, Thom got over and Shaw missed the place-kick from an angle.

Wales were at times and severe at the start of the second half, and when Dick kicked ahead Jenkins let the ball bounce so short of him that Beattie was able to pick up comfortably in his stride and pass to Shaw. The latter's turn of speed did the rest, and, though the place-kick failed, Scotland were level and, apart from the wind, no less than level.

Two long shots at goal by Day and Jenkins, the one from a mark and the other from a penalty and a grand kick by Wooller further raised Welsh hopes. Jenkins, as already described, placed his side four points in front...

WALE'S

V.G.J. Jenkins (Bridgend), back; I. Rees (Swansea), C. Davey (Swansea) (Cambridge University), and A. Bassett (Aberystwyth), three-quarter backs; C.W. Jones (Cambridge University) and W.C. Powell (Northampton), half-backs; I. Day (Swansea), C. Murphy (Cross Keys), T. Rees (Newport), D. Thomas (Swansea), T. Williams (Cross Keys), J. Lewis (Llanelli), R. Evans (Reading), D. Thomas (Reading), and A. Fear (Newport), forwards.

SCOTLAND

K.W. Marshall (Edinburgh Academicals), back; W.G. Johnston (Cambridge University), R.C.S. Dick (Guy's Hospital), R.W. Shaw (Cambridge University), three-quarter backs; C.F. Grieve (Kelso), J. Beattie (Hawick), W.A. Burns (West of Scotland), D.A. Thom (London Scottish), J.A. Waters (Selkirk) and L.B. Lambie (Glasgow High School F.P.) forwards.

Three-legged race

From Mr Maurice Ross
Sir, The Isle of Man an English island, forthwith (I across yesterday's crossword). I hope that "Fortress Wapping" proves equal to the task when your Manx readers take to the longboats.

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE ROSS,
18 Fieldway, Hoole, Chester,
January 31.



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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Blast from reserves could sink sterling

Today's official figures for the movement of Britain's currency reserves, little remarked during the years of non-intervention, may prove more explosive than the normally significant numbers for money supply and bank lending. This is chiefly because all these statistics are of interest principally to foreign exchange markets — the key to all money markets — and because the reserves may give a clearer message.

In December, they fell by £416 million, clear indication of a significant support operation for the lagging pound. The pound has continued to sag. If the new reserve figures show that support also vainly continued, the market may give a knowing wink and mark sterling down again.

Yesterday's sharp setback in morning trading was less a response to specific news from the Opec ministers meeting than evidence of the currency's general weakness, which halted its earlier recovery. News of a reserve fall greater than that in December (yesterday, talk of £500 million was common) would probably send sterling further on its way. De Zoete & Bevan see \$1.30 or DM3.25 as the next support levels.

A hefty rise in money supply could do the same. But the foreign exchange men usually judge the figures against expectations rather than by absolute tests and this month City forecasts vary so much that they do not know what to expect. Stephen Lewis of Phillips & Drew is looking for a 1 per cent rise in sterling M3 (the measure ignored by the Chancellor but preferred by markets), a modest rise in the hitherto undershooting M0, but a return to a more usual £1.8 billion rise in bank lending. Panmure Gordon look for a crude £3.75 billion rise in bank lending, but possibly a fall in M0.

Pressure on the pound certainly puts the Chancellor on the spot. The apparent choice of taking the falling oil price on the exchange rate or on interest rates is not as simple as it looks. The normal market mechanism would translate a falling pound into higher

interest rates as depositors, in effect, demand compensation for the currency risk. So, not putting interest rates up has actually required a determined policy to keep them down by the Bank of England pumping in money. Interbank rates remain determined above base rates, but without intervention base rates might be three points higher. A sharp new fall in sterling would almost certainly make it impossible to avoid another jump in base rates.

All that must affect Nigel Lawson's Budget thinking. He can be forgiven for going into purdah for reasons unconnected with secrecy. It must be tempting either to ignore the oil effect as having been worked out through exchange and interest rates, with some revenue still left for tax cuts, or even to compensate in fiscal terms for tightness in financial markets that he does not believe justified on domestic monetary grounds. Sadly, these factors cannot be separated from one another in the market dealer's eyes. After all, loss of oil exports might be deemed to require a compensating cut in domestic demand to avoid a trade gap. Certainly, there is a danger that any attempt to offset the domestic tightening that an oil-induced fall in sterling would naturally bring would again be interpreted by the markets as another sign that the British government is soft on inflation.

For that reason, perhaps, the smart political talk is that tax cuts can safely be delayed for a year because other events have necessitated a last-minute general election. The Chancellor should draw more comfort from the possibility that oil prices will have recovered somewhat from their present propaganda-depressed levels by the time he comes to deliver his Budget.

Meantime, it must be galling to see long-term interest rates coming down across the Atlantic and in Germany (where a 10-year loan was floated at 6.34 per cent, yesterday, five points below comparable gilt-edged yields) while Britain, once more, loses out on this desirable turn of events.

British banks handicapped

Two weeks ago Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, argued strongly for a more international system of regulating securities markets as large institutions became prominent in more than one financial centre. Such a system is still in its earliest stages of planning but in the area of banking the attempt to harmonize the regulatory arrangements of different countries is further forward. The Bank is instrumental in this process, but yesterday it received strong support from Sir Timothy Bevan, chairman of Barclays Bank.

Addressing a gathering of distinguished names at the Overseas Bankers Club annual banquet, Sir Timothy, who is the club's president, called for a system of bank regulation which would be the same in every major country. Much remains to be done despite the efforts of the Basic Committee, and in the meantime British bankers have the distinct feeling that they are losing a competitive edge.

The Bank of England was one of the first regulatory agencies to impose a risk/asset weighting for off-balance sheet lending, currently one of the boom areas of international banking. While British banks are subject to a 0.5 per cent weighting, the banks of many other countries have no

weighting requirements to meet. Equality of capital ratio requirements vary widely from country to country, but Britain's are among the most stringent.

Sir Timothy is not, however, in favour of harmonizing everything in the City with practices elsewhere. He delivered a plea for restraint by international banks entering the City as a result of big bang in the amount

Owing to technical difficulties associated with the transfer of *The Times* to Wapping, it is not yet possible to include all the regular services, especially market reports and financial statistics, including gilt-edged prices. They will be restored as soon as possible. Meanwhile we ask readers to bear with us during our temporary time of trial.

They pay to employees. His argument against what he calls "grossly inflated remuneration packages" is not the disruption it causes to an orderly employment market in the City.

Sir Timothy's objections are founded rather on the bad image inflated salaries give the City at a time when scandal seems to have become commonplace. Yet it is hard to avoid the impression that his plea has come too late.

SE unveils plans to boost personal share ownership

By Jeremy Warner, Business Correspondent

Wide proposals to encourage share ownership among individuals were announced yesterday by the Stock Exchange.

Officials said the effect could be to boost share ownership in Britain from the present level of 6 per cent of adults to nearer the 17 and 18 per cent of the adult population who enjoy direct share ownership in France and the United States.

The proposals have been endorsed by the Stock Exchange council and its chairman, Sir Nicholas Goodison, who plan to give them the highest priority after de-regulation of the securities industry has been pushed through in October.

Direct investment in equities has fallen seriously behind other methods of personal saving, such as building societies, pensions and life assurance, over the last 25 years. Stock Exchange

officials said that recent privatizations, such as the British Telecom, issue had done little more than offset the inroads building societies were continuing to make into the personal savings pool.

The market's retail development advisory committee has drawn up a three-point plan to reverse the flow of savings away from direct investment in shares. Its main recommendations are to:

- Seek tax equality for share investment with other forms of saving.
- Initiate a marketing campaign to encourage individual investors to invest in shares and in particular to try to capture a proportion of the savings over £5,000 now held in building society accounts.
- Seek to reduce transaction costs for small bargains by developing an automatic small order execution service



Sir Nicholas Goodison: top priority for promotion

and establishing a Stock Exchange Nominee service which would ease access to the ownership of securities. The committee suggested that one method of achieving the first objective would be to copy the successful French *Loi-Monory* scheme. This allows for an additional tax-free allowance of around £500 to be used to buy shares in a qualifying fund.

Another would be to introduce individual retirement accounts on the US model. Under those, designated annual contributions are put into a tax sheltered fund but withdrawals are fully taxed.

A third option suggested by the committee as a halfway stage would be for an individual to make contributions which are not tax allowable to a fund which would be allowed to accumulate "gross". Withdrawals would then be made free of tax at retirement.

The role of stockbrokers as investment advisers who can counsel individuals on achieving a balanced portfolio should be actively advertised both by member firms and the Stock Exchange itself, the committee says.

Building societies have been outstandingly successful in increasing their share of savings by advertising, at estimated promotional costs of £70 million a year.

Governor welcomes tougher safeguards

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, governor of the Bank of England, yesterday defended the City's reputation against accusations of fraud and dishonesty, but said new legislation would bring necessary improvements to the regulation of financial markets.

The governor insisted that many of the recent highly publicized failures in the City have had only a tenuous connection with London's supervisory system. He pointed out that much of the problem with Johnson Matthey Bankers, which had to be rescued from collapse last year, was fraud on the bank by its own customers, not fraud by the bank itself.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton said that no system of supervision could be guaranteed to prevent fraud, but that it could be an effective method of detecting fraud. He welcomed the urgency with which the Royal Commission report was being treated, which recommends changes to the way fraud cases are tried. He also supported the government inquiry into Lloyd's of London led by Sir Patrick Neill but added that all instances of fraud at Lloyd's had taken place before the 1982 Lloyd's Act which regulated the international insurance market.

New legislation contained in the Financial Services Bill and the Banking Supervision White Paper would give greater protection to private investors than to large institutions. This was correct because the institutions were expert enough to protect themselves, the governor said.

He added that however thorough the supervisory system became it should not take away the responsibility of a company's directors to use their own skill and judgement. Supervisors were not there to run companies instead of their directors and would not necessarily prevent the collapse of a financial institution because of bad business decisions.

Hire purchase hits record £19.5bn

By Ogr Economics Correspondent

Hire purchase and other instalment credit rose to record levels before Christmas, despite flat retail sales volume. At the end of December, £19.5 billion of consumer credit was outstanding.

New credit advanced was £1.177 billion, compared with £1.078 billion in November and the previous high of £1.124 billion in October. In December 1984, £969 million was advanced.

The figures, despite reaching record levels, may understate the true rise in consumer credit. The figures cover traditional hire purchase credit but not recent innovations such as in-store credit cards, including the popular Marks and Spencer chargecard.

Retail sales volume in December, originally estimated to have risen to a record, actually fell compared with November, after new seasonal adjustments are taken into account.

The index of retail sales volume was 117.3 (1980 = 100) in December, compared with 117.4 in November. The peak was reached in August at 117.5.

Officials at the Department of Trade and Industry said that the pattern of retail sales remained as originally estimated. The poor summer produced strong retail spending in August followed by a slump in September and October and then the traditional November-December strength of sales.

Despite these monthly variations, last year was a good one for retail sales, with volume up by 4.2 per cent compared with the previous year.

The Retail Consortium said that the figures showed that 1985 was an extremely successful year, despite the slightly disappointing December sales, up 3.5 per cent on a year earlier.

Tesco sells discount store chain

By Our Industrial Editor

Tesco Stores, the supermarket chain, has sold its Victor Value discount stores to Bejam, the freezer centres group, in a deal worth £19.25 million gross.

The 45-store chain was launched by Tesco in 1982 to sell a limited line of goods at low prices in the Midlands, North West and London, with electronic point of sale (EPOS) used in every outlet to achieve the most efficient stock control.

The contribution of trading profits from the division to Bejam was expected to be sufficient from the outset to cover the overall funding cost of the acquisition.

Tesco said Victor Value had been useful for EPOS evaluation but the chain was now outside the mainstream of Tesco's developing supermarket business. In the current financial year, Tesco is spending about £200 million in new-store developments and refurbishing.

Property firm to raise £56m in unusual deal

By Judith Huntley, Commercial Property Correspondent

Wates City of London Properties, the company with a portfolio entirely comprised of office buildings in the Square Mile, is raising £56 million in an innovative funding package.

The company has negotiated a deal with five underwriting banks for seven-year money at a base of 0.03 per cent over Libor.

And a panel of 19 banks has bid to lend the company the £56 million at a better rate than that agreed by the underwriters. This fund-raising

technique is common for large companies but unusual for small companies like Wates.

The loan facility is an attempt to lower interest rates and give the company the flexibility to call on the money when it needs it. About one third will go to pay existing debt with the rest being used to finance Wates's development programme.

MEPC, the property company, is using the same method to raise £200 million

Boots to test laser system at tills

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Boots, the pharmaceutical retail chain, is planning to introduce electronic point-of-sale equipment at 170 of its bigger stores, using a new IBM system on offer for the first time in Europe.

A pilot system is to be installed soon at Boots' Peterborough store, and if that proves successful the bigger outlets among the 1,024-strong chain will be similarly equipped within three years.

At Peterborough Boots ex-

pects 70 per cent of goods sold to be bar-coded.

Boots will be the first European retailer to install the IBM 4680 system, which uses IBM AT personal computers. As well as being compatible with scanning, the system can be used for checking the validity of credit cards.

IBM said the cost of the system in a typical store with two AT machines and 30 terminals, and including software costs, would be less than £104,000.

Hawley pays £3.6m for golf company

Hawley Group, Mr Michael Ashcroft's Bermuda-based home improvements, security and contract cleaning company, has bought World Golf Management and its Montreal affiliate, International Golf, for £37.2 million (£3.6 million).

The group markets all-inclusive golf tours from North America to 12 countries with particular emphasis on Scotland.

The purchase will be satisfied by the issue of one million shares in Hawley and sufficient cash to add up to Can\$5.5 million. The final Can\$1.7 million will be paid one year after the completion of the deal.

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN BANK	12 1/4%
Adam & Company	12 1/4%
BCCI	12 1/4%
Citibank Savings	12 1/4%
Consolidated Cds	12 1/4%
Continental Trust	12 1/4%
Co-operative Bank	12 1/4%
C.H. Hoare & Co	12 1/4%
Lloyds Bank	12 1/4%
Nat Westminster	12 1/4%
Royal Bank Scotland	12 1/4%
TSB	12 1/4%
Citibank NA	12 1/4%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

NEWS BACKGROUND

Sky-high loan rates too big a price for strong pound

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

When does a falling exchange rate not result in higher inflation? When it is as a result of a sharp drop in oil prices. The pound's slide over the past three weeks, which continued yesterday as the markets awaited hard news from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Vienna, has not yet upset the Treasury's inflation forecasts.

This is because there is a trade-off between the adverse effects on inflation of the pound's depreciation, and the beneficial effects that arise from lower world oil prices.

Although the pound has fallen by around 10 per cent, on average, from its levels early in December, the Treasury forecast of 3.75 per cent inflation by the end of this year may still be achievable. This is even more the case if the authorities are correct in their judgement that part of the pound's fall reflects the natural tendency of the foreign exchange markets to overshoot and that the level that the exchange rate is likely to settle at — even with oil prices in the \$15-20 a barrel range — is somewhat higher than yesterday.

Economists at the stockbroker Laing & Cruckshank,

using a version of the Treasury's economic model developed by Oxford Economic Forecasting, provide support for the view that "letting the pound take the strain, is likely to be broadly neutral in its effects on inflation."

Attempting to shore up the pound through higher interest rates, on the other hand, would require big increases in already high base rates.

The Treasury's economic forecast at the time of the Autumn Statement in November was based, it is believed, on an oil price of \$26 a barrel and an exchange rate against the dollar of about \$1.40.

Assuming a new oil price of \$20 a barrel, the \$6 a barrel drop will have an early impact on inflation — reducing the retail price index by 0.3 per cent. This is based on the rate of change that every 10 per cent fall in the oil price results in a 5 per cent drop in petrol prices charged to retailers.

This reduction is on the non-duty element of the final petrol price. After allowing for duty, which remains unchanged and is about half of the forecast price, the pump price can be expected to fall by about 2.5 per cent

for every 10 per cent drop in crude oil prices.

This 0.3 per cent reduction in the retail price index is the short-term effect. Longer term, a further 1.5 per cent cut in retail prices can be expected to feed through.

What also comes out of the model calculations, and these are likely to be broadly the same as those available to the Chancellor and his Treasury officials, is that defending the pound when it is falling because of sliding oil prices is expensive. According to Laing & Cruckshank, every \$5 a barrel off the oil price knocks 15 cents, or around 10 per cent at current levels, off the pound.

By the same token, each 1 point rise in base rates pushes up the pound by about 1.5 per cent. In other words, trying to keep the pound up when oil prices have fallen by \$5 a barrel would, on these calculations, necessitate about six percentage points on base rates. While another rise in base rates cannot be ruled out with this week's combination of Opec, money supply and reserves figures, the Treasury appears to have decided that there is a limit to the price it is prepared to pay for a strong exchange rate.

West loses in steel production

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Steel production in the West-corn world stabilized last year at just under 450 million tonnes, less than one per cent higher than in 1984, and the established producers have suffered at the expense of the developing nations.

Figures released by the Brussels-based International Iron and Steel Institute show that total world steel output rose by 1.4 per cent to 720 million tonnes, but most of the increase came from the developing nations such as China and Brazil — both now ahead of the United Kingdom in the world league table — while the United States output dropped to just over 80 million tonnes from 84 million tonnes in 1984.

The United Kingdom production is estimated at 15.7 million tonnes for 1985, up by 600,000 tonnes but still way behind the 21.5 million tonnes produced in 1979 and representing a six-year fall of almost 27 per cent.

In total, the developing nations' output rose to 75 million tonnes, a rise of 38 per cent since 1979.

In Europe, the largest fall in steel production over 1984 was recorded in Belgium, down 5.4 per cent, while the West German and the United Kingdom industries, both of which would claim to have streamlined their operations more than the rest of the European Community nations, showed rises of 2.7 per cent and 3.6 per cent respectively.

The world's biggest steelmakers — the USSR and Japan — produced respectively 155.2 million tonnes and 105.2 million tonnes in 1985, a similar level to 1984.

IN BRIEF
£8.7m bid agreed

Thomas Robinson, the engineer and machine maker, has made an agreed £8.7 million bid for Wadkin, the woodworking machinery company.

The terms are one Robinson share for one Wadkin or a cash alternative at 165p a share. Robinson has received irrevocable acceptances from the Wadkin directors and their families for 18.2 per cent of the shares. The Robinson pension fund already owns 2.6 per cent.

Full acceptance of the bid would involve the issue of 4.8 million new shares in Robinson, or 55 per cent of the enlarged equity.

Wadkin is estimated to have made a loss in 1985.

Norsk rise

Norsk Data, the Norwegian mini computer company, lifted profits to NOK360 million (£34.3 million) from NOK233 million in the year to December 31. Tempus, page 18

FNF change

First National Finance has sent shareholders details of a proposed change in the existing group borrowing limit of £500 million to a new limit of no more than nine times adjusted share capital and reserves.

Listing sought

Hanson Trust is to seek a listing for its shares on the New York Stock Exchange. Rothschild Inc is to advise on the listing, which will take the form of American depositary receipts.

No dividend

Andre de Bret has not resumed dividend payments, despite a leap in pretax profits from £37,000 to £112,000 and a fall in interest payments from £76,000 to £64,000 for the six months to September 30.

US orders up

US factory orders for December rose 2.7 per cent against a revised 0.8 per cent November rise, while December construction spending rose 2.8 per cent after falling a revised 0.4 per cent in November, official figures released yesterday showed.

Bowring

Results for the year ended 31st December, 1985 (Unaudited)

	£ million	1985	1984
Operating Revenue	137.1	111.7	
Operating Expenses	(92.1)	(78.3)	
Operating Profit	45.0	33.4	
Other Income	2.4	1.4	
Profit before tax	47.4	34.8	
Provision for UK tax	(21.3)	(15.8)	
Profit after tax	26.1	19.0	

■ Operating Revenue has increased by 23%.

■ Profit before tax has increased by 36%.

The above figures do not constitute full group accounts for the Bowring Group and have been adjusted to comply with generally accepted accounting practices in the United States. Earnings of companies which were sold during 1984 and 1985 together with other items which are not relevant to operating performance have been excluded. The 1984 comparatives have been restated onto a basis consistent with that used for reporting the results of 1985.

The full financial statements for the year ended 31st December, 1984 of C. T. Bowring & Co. Limited have been filed with the Registrar of Companies and the report of the auditors thereon was unqualified. The full financial statements for the year ended 31st December, 1985 have not yet been reported upon by the auditors and have not yet been filed with the Registrar of Companies.

Copies of the announcement may be obtained from the Secretary, C. T. Bowring & Co. Ltd., The Bowring Building, Tower Place, London EC3P 3BE.

A Member of
Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc.

on

EXCHANGE

The market after previous slackened by very sensitive operators anxious to position as the pound in Vienna got into the bottom. It showed more than 2% rise in trade index fell 4.6 overnight.

The pound position, plotted against the 3,300 against the night.

A pessimistic from Saudi Arabia production responsible for a fresh decline.

The dollar, meanwhile, fell well from opening. It was up to mark at 2.3900, Swiss francs at 2.0320 (2.0270).

MONEY MARKET

Rates were higher with a point in the sharp fall. The pound market was falling on all money markets out to the Bank of England round of changes totaling 10%.

However, were square their books possible so as to exposed even the facts were quiet.

Factor appeared more defensive than save ahead of today figures, with the price a sharp rise in the

FINANCIAL TRUST

...



FOR A STRONGER SCOTCH JUST ADD GUINNESS.

Scotch whisky is one of our leading exports. Over 16,000 jobs depend on it.

Johnnie Walker & Co. must be made stronger if they are to win the fight for overseas sales.

There is opposition from the Far East, America and Canada. Each has its own thriving whisky brands. And powerful international corporations to market them.

Scotch whisky needs a similar champion. And our merger with Distillers would create one.

Time and time again Britain has failed to wake early enough to the challenge from overseas.

The alarm bells are now ringing on the world whisky market. Help us respond. Support the Guinness Distillers bid.

GUINNESS PLC

Guinness and Distillers. A stroke of genius.

This advertisement is published by Morgan Grenfell & Co Limited and The British Linen Bank Limited on behalf of Guinness PLC. The Directors of Guinness PLC are the persons responsible for the information contained in this advertisement. To the best of their knowledge and belief (having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case) the information contained in this advertisement is in accordance with the facts. The Directors of Guinness PLC accept responsibility accordingly. SOURCE: Scotch Whisky Association.

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	1985 Close	1985 Dividend	1985 P/E
1	INDUSTRIALS 4-D					
2	Bathurst	438	412	428	12.5	12.5
3	Courtesy Paper	125	115	120	1.5	12.5
4	Dr. Sybil	125	115	120	1.5	12.5
5	Bathurst	438	412	428	12.5	12.5
6	Bathurst	438	412	428	12.5	12.5
7	Bathurst	438	412	428	12.5	12.5
8	Bathurst	438	412	428	12.5	12.5
9	Bathurst	438	412	428	12.5	12.5
10	Bathurst	438	412	428	12.5	12.5
11	Bathurst	438	412	428	12.5	12.5
12	Bathurst	438	412	428	12.5	12.5
13	Bathurst	438	412	428	12.5	12.5
14	Bathurst	438	412	428	12.5	12.5
15	Bathurst	438	412	428	12.5	12.5
16	Bathurst	438	412	428	12.5	12.5
17	Bathurst	438	412	428	12.5	12.5
18	Bathurst	438	412	428	12.5	12.5
19	Bathurst	438	412	428	12.5	12.5
20	Bathurst	438	412	428	12.5	12.5
21	Bathurst	438	412	428	12.5	12.5
22	Bathurst	438	412	428	12.5	12.5
23	Bathurst	438	412	428	12.5	12.5
24	Bathurst	438	412	428	12.5	12.5
25	Bathurst	438	412	428	12.5	12.5
26	Bathurst	438	412	428	12.5	12.5
27	Bathurst	438	412	428	12.5	12.5
28	Bathurst	438	412	428	12.5	12.5
29	Bathurst	438	412	428	12.5	12.5
30	Bathurst	438	412	428	12.5	12.5

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £1,000 in newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BREWERS

No.	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	1985 Close	1985 Dividend	1985 P/E
308	Adnams	125	115	120	1.5	12.5
309	Adnams	125	115	120	1.5	12.5
310	Adnams	125	115	120	1.5	12.5
311	Adnams	125	115	120	1.5	12.5
312	Adnams	125	115	120	1.5	12.5
313	Adnams	125	115	120	1.5	12.5
314	Adnams	125	115	120	1.5	12.5
315	Adnams	125	115	120	1.5	12.5
316	Adnams	125	115	120	1.5	12.5
317	Adnams	125	115	120	1.5	12.5
318	Adnams	125	115	120	1.5	12.5
319	Adnams	125	115	120	1.5	12.5
320	Adnams	125	115	120	1.5	12.5

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

No.	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	1985 Close	1985 Dividend	1985 P/E
321	Adnams	125	115	120	1.5	12.5
322	Adnams	125	115	120	1.5	12.5
323	Adnams	125	115	120	1.5	12.5
324	Adnams	125	115	120	1.5	12.5
325	Adnams	125	115	120	1.5	12.5
326	Adnams	125	115	120	1.5	12.5
327	Adnams	125	115	120	1.5	12.5
328	Adnams	125	115	120	1.5	12.5
329	Adnams	125	115	120	1.5	12.5
330	Adnams	125	115	120	1.5	12.5

LOCK INTO BIGGER SALES IN THE SUNDAY TIMES

To advertise your car, holiday home or property for sale in The Sunday Times Classified, fill in your advertisement in the space below. (Larger messages can be attached separately.)
Rates are £9.50 per line (approximately 4 words, minimum 3 lines).
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(VISA) _____

To pay by Access or Barclaycard, please quote your number.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Widespread falls

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Jan 27. Dealing End Feb 7. Contango Day Feb 10. Settlement Day Feb 17. \$ Forward Bargains are permitted on two previous days.

1985 High	1985 Low	1985 Close	1985 Dividend	1985 P/E
331	321	325	1.5	12.5
332	322	326	1.5	12.5
333	323	327	1.5	12.5
334	324	328	1.5	12.5
335	325	329	1.5	12.5
336	326	330	1.5	12.5
337	327	331	1.5	12.5
338	328	332	1.5	12.5
339	329	333	1.5	12.5
340	330	334	1.5	12.5
341	331	335	1.5	12.5
342	332	336	1.5	12.5
343	333	337	1.5	12.5
344	334	338	1.5	12.5
345	335	339	1.5	12.5
346	336	340	1.5	12.5
347	337	341	1.5	12.5
348	338	342	1.5	12.5
349	339	343	1.5	12.5
350	340	344	1.5	12.5

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

1985 High	1985 Low	1985 Close	1985 Dividend	1985 P/E
351	341	345	1.5	12.5
352	342	346	1.5	12.5
353	343	347	1.5	12.5
354	344	348	1.5	12.5
355	345	349	1.5	12.5
356	346	350	1.5	12.5
357	347	351	1.5	12.5
358	348	352	1.5	12.5
359	349	353	1.5	12.5
360	350	354	1.5	12.5
361	351	355	1.5	12.5
362	352	356	1.5	12.5
363	353	357	1.5	12.5
364	354	358	1.5	12.5
365	355	359	1.5	12.5
366	356	360	1.5	12.5
367	357	361	1.5	12.5
368	358	362	1.5	12.5
369	359	363	1.5	12.5
370	360	364	1.5	12.5

FINANCE AND LAND

1985 High	1985 Low	1985 Close	1985 Dividend	1985 P/E
371	361	365	1.5	12.5
372	362	366	1.5	12.5
373	363	367	1.5	12.5
374	364	368	1.5	12.5
375	365	369	1.5	12.5
376	366	370	1.5	12.5
377	367	371	1.5	12.5
378	368	372	1.5	12.5
379	369	373	1.5	12.5
380	370	374	1.5	12.5
381	371	375	1.5	12.5
382	372	376	1.5	12.5
383	373	377	1.5	12.5
384	374	378	1.5	12.5
385	375	379	1.5	12.5
386	376	380	1.5	12.5
387	377	381	1.5	12.5
388	378	382	1.5	12.5
389	379	383	1.5	12.5
390	380	384	1.5	12.5

FOODS

1985 High	1985 Low	1985 Close	1985 Dividend	1985 P/E
391	381	385	1.5	12.5
392	382	386	1.5	12.5
393	383	387	1.5	12.5
394	384	388	1.5	12.5
395	385	389	1.5	12.5
396	386	390	1.5	12.5
397	387	391	1.5	12.5
398	388	392	1.5	12.5
399	389	393	1.5	12.5
400	390	394	1.5	12.5
401	391	395	1.5	12.5
402	392	396	1.5	12.5
403	393	397	1.5	12.5
404	394	398	1.5	12.5
405	395	399	1.5	12.5
406	396	400	1.5	12.5
407	397	401	1.5	12.5
408	398	402	1.5	12.5
409	399	403	1.5	12.5
410	400	404	1.5	12.5

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1985 High	1985 Low	1985 Close	1985 Dividend	1985 P/E
411	401	405	1.5	12.5
412	402	406	1.5	12.5
413	403	407	1.5	12.5
414	404	408	1.5	12.5
415	405	409	1.5	12.5
416	406	410	1.5	12.5
417	407	411	1.5	12.5
418	408	412	1.5	12.5
419	409	413	1.5	12.5
420	410	414	1.5	12.5
421	411	415	1.5	12.5
422	412	416	1.5	12.5
423	413	417	1.5	12.5
424	414	418	1.5	12.5
425	415	419	1.5	12.5
426	416	420	1.5	12.5
427	417	421	1.5	12.5
428	418	422	1.5	12.5
429	419	423	1.5	12.5
430	420	424	1.5	12.5

CINEMAS AND TV

1985 High	1985 Low	1985 Close	1985 Dividend	1985 P/E
431	421	425	1.5	12.5
432	422	426	1.5	12.5
433	423	427	1.5	12.5
434	424	428	1.5	12.5
435	425	429	1.5	12.5
436	426	430	1.5	12.5
437	427	431	1.5	12.5
438	428	432	1.5	12.5
439	429	433	1.5	12.5
440	430	434	1.5	12.5
441	431	435	1.5	12.5
442	432	436	1.5	12.5
443	433	437	1.5	12.5
444	434	438	1.5	12.5
445	435	439	1.5	12.5
446	436	440	1.5	12.5
447	437	441	1.5	12.5
448	438	442	1.5	12.5
449	439	443	1.5	12.5
450	440	444	1.5	12.5

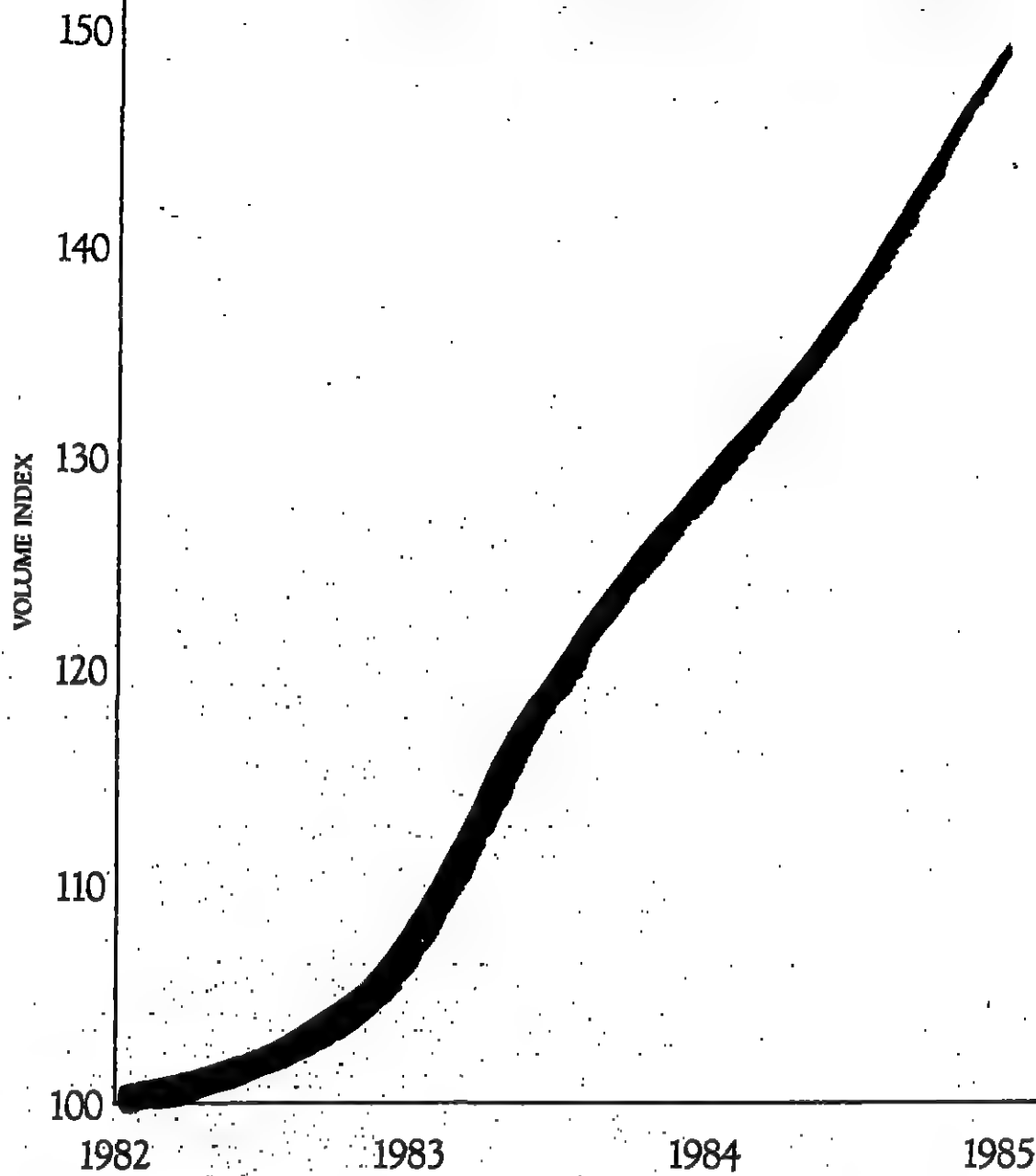
DRAPEY AND STORES

DRAPERY AND STORES			
1985 High	1985 Low	1985 Close	1985 Dividend
70	50	55	1.5
71	51	56	1.5
72	52	57	1.5
73	53	58	1.5
74	54	59	1.5
75	55	60	1.5
76	56	61	1.5
77	57	62	1.5
78	58	63	1.5
79	59	64	1.5
80	60	65	1.5
81	61	66	1.5
82	62	67	1.5
83	63	68	1.5
84	64	69	1.5
85	65	70	1.5
86	66	71	1.5
87	67	72	1.5
88	68	73	1.5
89	69	74	1.5
90	70	75	1.5
91	71	76	1.5
92	72	77	1.5
93	73	78	1.5
94	74	79	1.5
95	75	80	1.5
96	76	81	1.5
97	77	82	1.5
98	78	83	1.5
99	79	84	1.5
100	80	85	1.5
101	81	86	1.5
102	82	87	1.5
103	83	88	1.5
104	84	89	1.5
105	85	90	1.5
106	86	91	1.5
107	87	92	1.5
108	88	93	1.5
109	89	94	1.5
110	90	95	1.5
111	91	96	1.5
112	92	97	1.5
113	93	98	1.5
114	94	99	1.5
115	95	100	1.5
116	96	101	1.5
117	97	102	1.5
118	98	103	1.5
119	99	104	1.5
120	100	105	1.5
121	101	106	1.5
122	102	107	1.5
123	103	108	1.5
124	104	109	1.5
125	105	110	1.5
126	106	111	1.5
127	107	112	1.5
128	108	113	1.5
129	109	114	1.5
130	110	115	1.5
131	111	116	1.5
132	112	117	1.5
133	113	118	1.5
134	114	119	1.5
135	115	120	1.5
136	116	121	1.5
137	117	122	1.5
138	118	123	1.5
139	119	124	1.5
140	120	125	1.5
141	121	126	1.5
142	122	127	1.5
143	123	128	1.5
144	124	129	1.5
145	125	130	1.5
146	126	131	1.5
147	127	132	1.5
148	128	133	1.5
149	129	134	1.5
150	130	135	1.5
151	131	136	1.5
152	132	137	1.5
153	133	138	1.5
154	134	139	1.5
155	135	140	1.5
156	136	141	1.5
157	137	142	1.5
158	138	143	1.5
159	139	144	1.5
160	140	145	1.5
161	141	146	1.5
162	142	147	1.5
163	143	148	1.5
164	144	149	1.5
165	145	150	1.5
166	146	151	1.5
167	147	152	1.5
168	148	153	1.5
169	149	154	1.5
170	150	155	1.5
171	151	156	1.5
172	152	157	1.5
173	153	158	1.5
174	154	159	1.5
175	155	160	1.5
176	156	161	1.5
177	157	162	1.5
178	158	163	1.5
179	159	164	1.5
180	160	165	1.5
181	161	166	1.5
182	162	167	1.5
183	163	168	1.5
184	164	169	1.5
185	165	170	1.5
186	166	171	1.5
187	167	172	1.5
188	168	173	1.5
189	169	174	1.5
190	170	175	1.5
191	171	176	1.5
192	172	177	1.5
193	173	178	1.5
194	174	179	1.5
195	175	180	1.5
196	176	181	1.5
197	177	182	1.5
198	178	183	1.5
199	179	184	1.5
200	180	185	1.5
201	181	186	1.5
202	182	187	1.5
203	183	188	1.5
204	184	189	1.5
205	185	190	1.5
206	186	191	1.5
207	187	192	1.5
208	188	193	1.5
209	189	194	1.5
210	190	195	1.5
211	191	196	1.5
212	192	197	1.5
213	193	198	1.5
214	194	199	1.5
215	195	200	1.5
216	196	201	1.5
217	197	202	1.5
218	198	203	1.5
219	199	204	1.5
220	200	205	1.5
221	201	206	1.5
222	202	207	1.5
223	203	208	1.5
224	204	209	1.5
225	205	210	1.5
226	206	211	1.5
227	207	212	1.5
228	208	213	1.5
229	209	214	1.5
230	210	215	1.5
231	211	216	1.5
232	212	217	1.5
233	213	218	1.5
234	214	219	1.5
235	215	220	1.5
236	216	221	1.5
237	217	222	1.5
238	218	223	1.5
239	219	224	1.5
240	220	225	1.5
241	221	226	1.5
242	222	227	1.5
243	223	228	1.5
244	224	229	1.5
245	225	230	1.5
246	226	231	1.5
247	227	232	1.5
248	228	233	1.5
249	229	234	1.5
250	230	235	1.5
251	231	236	1.5
252	232	237	1.5
253	233	238	1.5
254	234	239	1.5
255	235	240	1.5
256	236	241	1.5
257	237	242	1.5
258	238	243	1.5
259	239	244	1.5
260	240	245	1.5
261	241	246	1.5
262	242	247	1.5
263	243	248	1.5
264	244	249	1.5
265	245	250	1.5
266	246	251	1.5
267	247	252	1.5
268	248	253	1.5
269	249	254	1.5
270	250	255	1.5
271	251	256	1.5
272	252	257	1.5
273	253	258	1.5
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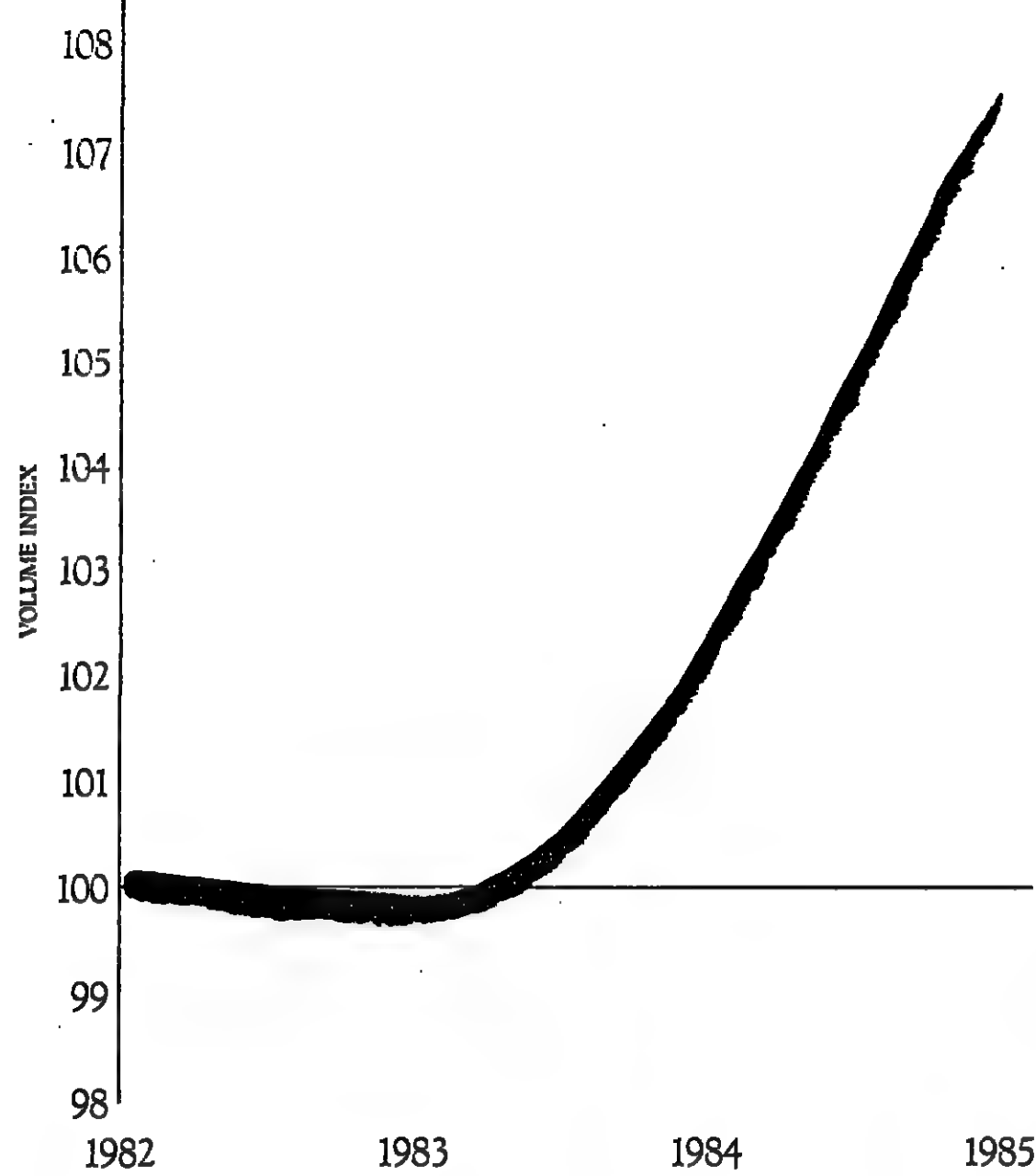
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Edited by Matthew May

COMPUTER HORIZONS

BT maintains its grip on Britain's IT market

British Telecom last week took one more step in consolidating its position as the dominant force in the UK information technology market. In the face of a recommendation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission that the proposed takeover of Mite! be stopped, the corporation snatched victory.

The government, determined to build BT into a multinational giant with manufacturing and operational skills that can compete with the Japanese and the Americans in the information technology market anywhere in the world, disregarded the MMC recommendations. The government justification appears weak. It reads: "In reaching this conclusion, the Secretary of State took into account the unanimous conclusion of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission that the proposed acquisition may be expected to operate against the public interest. In accordance with the majority view of the commission, the Secretary of State considers that the adverse effects on competition in the UK should be sufficiently reduced if constraints were placed on BT's ability to acquire telecommunications apparatus from Mite!."

What those constraints and

controls will be is not clear. The Government, as it has many times in the past three years, has refused to address the real question. Can the British IT industry — both telecommunications and computers — be expected to thrive and expand in the face of a dominating BT?

THE WEEK

By Bill Johnstone
Technology Correspondent

The Government justification continued: "The Secretary of State has decided that the proposed merger could proceed, subject to conditions similar to those proposed by the MMC. He has, however, concluded that competition in the UK market for telecommunications equipment would be sufficiently protected by imposing a ceiling on Mite!'s marketing to and through BT rather than imposing a complete prohibition on such marketing."

"He is, therefore, asking the Director General of Fair Trading to seek undertakings from British Telecom on these lines to remedy the adverse effects from the proposed merger identified in the MMC report."

Instead of making a determined judgement itself, the Government has left it to the Office of Fair Trading to try and reach an accommodation with a corporation which is bent on dominating the UK IT sector. It took a similar approach to the control of British Telecom in its network operations by creating an OfTel on a model of the Office of Fair Trading. The director general of the telecommunications watchdog has been devoting much of his energies in trying to come to "accommodations" with British Telecom and would clearly like to have more powers to thwart the ambitions of the corporation.

The Government's decision in yet another monument to the lack of industrial policy. That lacking is particularly evident in the IT sector where the growing trade deficit, the lack of investment and the dearth of skills is putting British industry at the mercy of the Americans and the Japanese.

Are we to assume that BT will now manufacture everything that it needs whether it be paper clips or power lines? The answer is obviously no. Its function should be guardian of the national network. The government should tell it so.

The phone that is going places

By Frank Brown

Royal Vodafone's latest big customer for its cellular radio service looks set to make the mobile telephone a powerful source of instant information, as well as a handy means of communication.

ICL, Britain's major computer company, has linked its nationwide internal telecommunications network — the largest of its kind in the UK — to the Vodafone service.

Believed to be the first such link in Europe, it provides Vodafone users with dial-up access to ICL's 20,000 telephone extensions and vice versa, and can handle 30 calls simultaneously between the two networks.

The arrangement means that senior managers and key sales personnel of ICL and its parent company STC, will be able to use their mobile telephones in exactly the same way as office phones.

The link is particularly significant because ICL's network handles data as well as voice traffic and provides access to message and information handling facilities such as electronic mail and telex.

ICL's cellular radio users can have calls automatically diverted from the office to their mobile phone and can rapidly access key extensions and data/message services within the ICL network using three-digit dialling codes.

There are also long-term effects on its private wire. For example, the company is looking at the possibility of allowing users of its value-added networks (Vans) to access their databases via its internal network without having to go to their office or to a terminal.

One such Vans is Tradernet, which ICL operates for the Article Numbering Association, to which most major companies and supermarket chains belong.

The extension of the Vodafone private wire link to Tradernet would obviously increase its versatility, in terms of placing orders from bread vans and milk floats and sending information to and from delivery trucks.



Keeping an eye on the ball

By Richard Pawsom

Imagine you could see what the batsman sees when he places a fast bowler in the test match, or have a goalie's-eye view of a penalty kick in the last moments of a Cup Final. These are just two experiences made possible by Skycam — a computer-controlled television camera developed in the US.

Instead of being fixed in one location, Skycam allows the camera to be positioned anywhere over the field of play. The camera is suspended on wires from the four corners of the stadium and each wire passes over a remotely-controlled winch. The operator initiates the movement via two joysticks on the control panel in the commentary box. The joystick inputs are translated into rotation speeds for each of the four cable winches.

The first prototype was actually constructed around

an Osborne 1 portable micro-computer, but later versions employed a Motorola 68000-based computer to improve the speed. The control software is written in Fortran, a programming language.

Each motor winch has its own intelligent control board and instructions are communicated via a link equivalent to a local area network in a large office. A miniature microwave link communicates with the camera — since the steel cables are already used to deliver a trickle charge to the mobile systems' batteries.

Moving the camera at high speed and then rotating it to any viewing angle would ordinarily generate tremendous instability problems. Here the inventor, Garrett Brown, applied the technol-

ogy from one of his previous brainchild — Steadicam.

Used in such films as *Return of the Jedi*, Steadicam is a gyroscopically-controlled harness that enables the cameraman to walk or run while still providing a steady picture.

Skycam is still very much a prototype system and has not gone into mass production. Planned future developments include an obstacle avoidance routine that employs artificial intelligence.

Skycam has, however, already been successfully used to televise several American football games — baseball and basketball will be tried in the near future. There is no denying the quality of this form of American sports coverage. Let us hope that Skycam is an innovation that British television will not be slow to adopt.

Superficial response to decline in skills

Reports from the Government on the shortage of skills in information technology were superficial and hurried, according to Professor John Ashworth, vice-chancellor of the University of Salford. Speaking at a lecture last week, Professor Ashworth, who is also chairman of the IT Economic Development Committee with NEDO, said the Government's response was inadequate in terms of the amount of money needed to halt the decline and the quality of the solution offered.

Russian service

The Soviet news agency Tass has signed an agreement to sell its English language news service to the West by making it available through desktop computers. Announcing the agreement with the British company Datavision, Tass said it would give the world greater access to first-hand news of the Soviet Union and be commercially profitable.

AT&T factory

The American communications giant AT&T is planning to open a British factory within two years in a joint venture with Philips. The factory will initially manufacture communications transmission gear and is expected to provide about 350 jobs. AT&T recently announced it would abandon its Net 1000 communications network due to poor sales.

Systime sell-off

The troubled minicomputer company Systime has sold a large part of its business to Digital Equipment. As part of the deal DEC will drop a £25 million suit which alleges that Systime copied its computer equipment. DEC is to take over Systime's customers services for its D-series computers.

Meet the new boss face to face

By Richard Sarson

The UK's first Computing Recruitment Fair is planned to take place on April 18 and 19 at the Novotel Hotel in Hammersmith. Thirty firms with jobs to fill will have booths for job hunters in the computing field to go to and apply on the spot.

The benefits of this approach say the organisers. Intro UK, include cutting down the lengthy recruitment cycle so that candidates can have instant interviews. All the arduous work involved in filling out application forms and curricula vitae is removed as is the usual lengthy wait for answers.

JOB SCENE

The idea for these job fairs started in Norway a few years ago and spread to Sweden and Holland. If all goes well the organisers of the UK fair expect to host two more in London, in September and December, and introduce it to the regions next year.

Nearly 1,000 job seekers turned up to the last Dutch fair with one software house hiring eight staff and Shell Nederland describing 100 candidates as of "definite interest" to them. Eighty per cent of the exhibitors rebooked for later fairs.

Stands at the fair have to be the same size and each costs £3,750. The organisers say firms are signing up fast and include a mixture of manufacturers, software houses and large computer users — mainly banks and insurance companies. Head hunters and other personnel agencies cannot take part.

One particular class of job hunter who may well benefit from the concept of job-fairs is the over 40's, whose applications are frequently consigned to the waste-paper basket by most personnel managers. Now, at least, they can confront them directly.

Perhaps the major snag is what would happen to the person who finds their boss — or a subordinate — in the same booth.

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Silicon take-off near Heathrow

By Richard Sarson

Silicon Valley in California, Silicon Glen on the Clyde, Silicon Fen in Cambridge and Sunrise Valley on the Thames will shortly have a rival, on a 60-year-old rubbish dump near Heathrow.

Stockley Park will become a new business park for high technology companies, a joint venture between property company, Stockley Group, the London Borough of Hillingdon and the University of Superannuation Scheme.

The first of the office buildings, which will finally cover 100 acres of the 350 acre site, are due to be ready in the spring. Trees 50 feet high have been shipped from

The developers promise to provide shops, restaurants, conference halls and banks. Tennis and squash courts, a gym and swimming pool will

while the office buildings will be wired with optical fibre and cables.

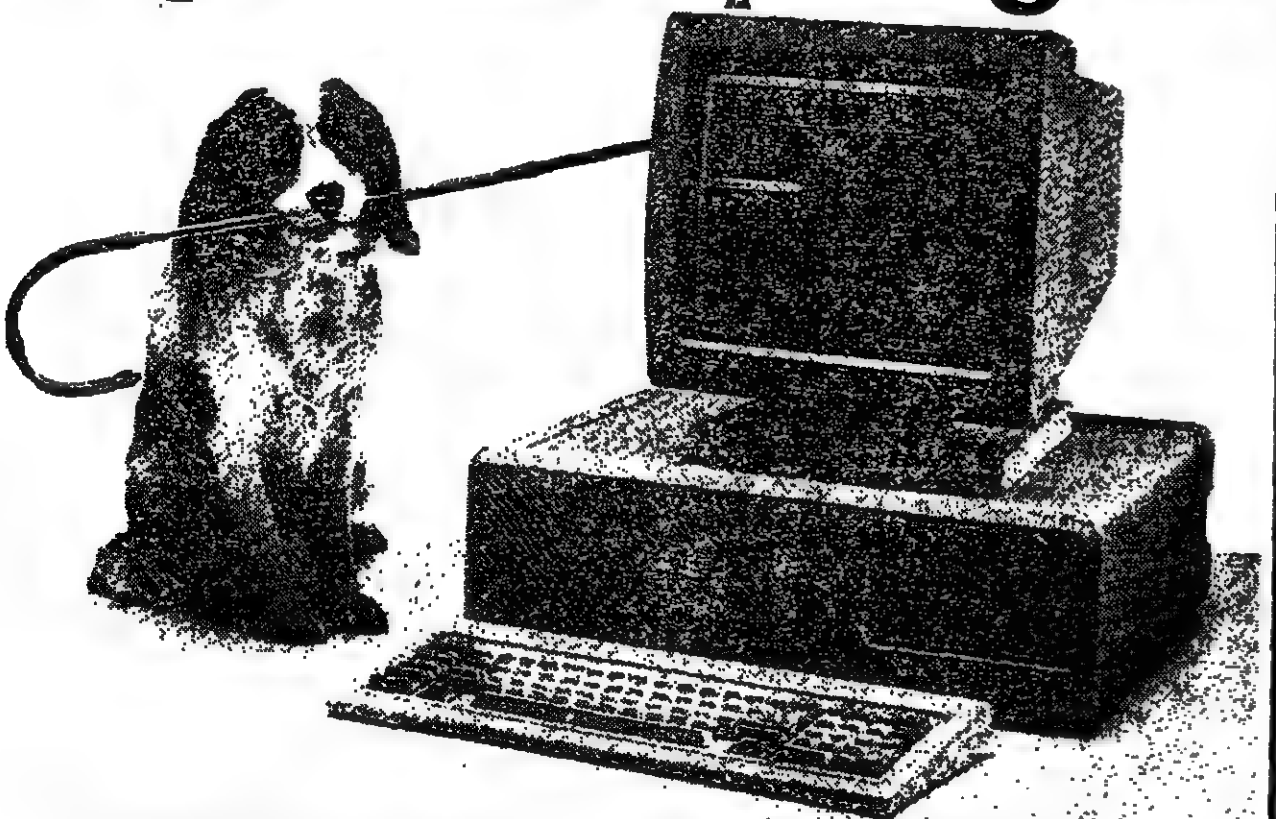
The developers invited 450 of the world's major computer companies to the introductory symposium before Christmas. Seventy per cent of those likely to take office space are reportedly American, 15 per cent from the Far East and only 15 per cent British or European.

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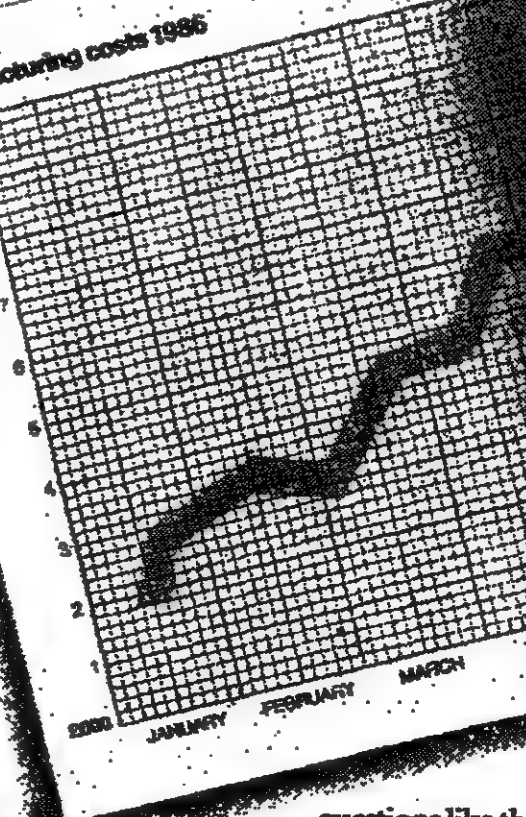
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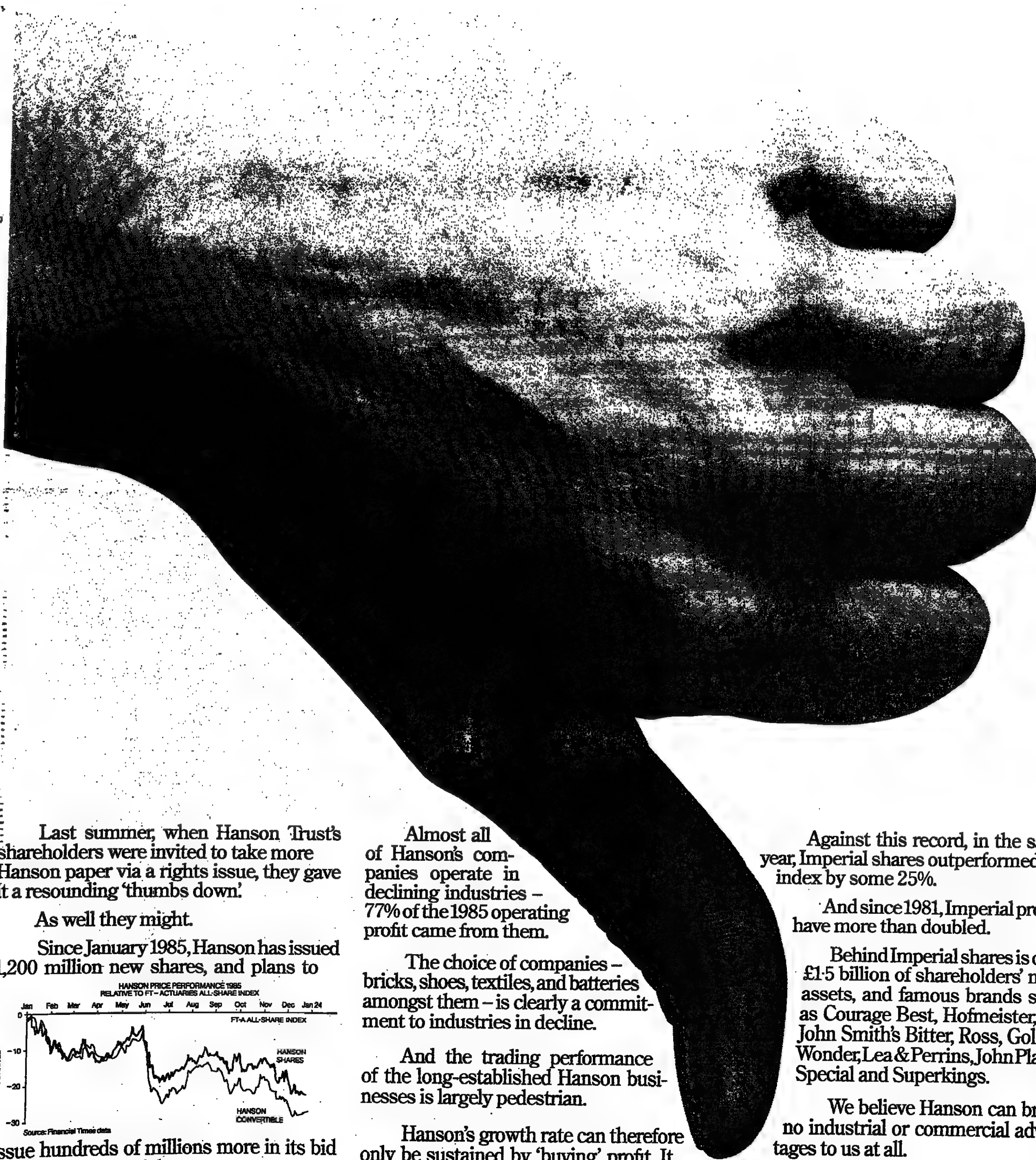
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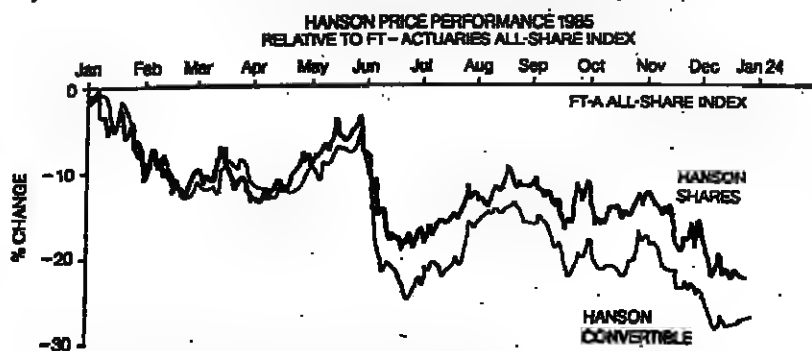
If you want to know what to do about Hanson's 'paper,' ask Hanson's shareholders.



Last summer, when Hanson Trust's shareholders were invited to take more Hanson paper via a rights issue, they gave it a resounding 'thumbs down'.

As well they might.

Since January 1985, Hanson has issued 1,200 million new shares, and plans to



issue hundreds of millions more in its bid to take over Imperial.

No wonder the market is appearing to be suffering from acute indigestion.

The future value of this paper is questionable, too, as it depends on a rate of growth which Hanson companies alone will find very difficult to sustain.

Almost all of Hanson's companies operate in declining industries - 77% of the 1985 operating profit came from them.

The choice of companies - bricks, shoes, textiles, and batteries amongst them - is clearly a commitment to industries in decline.

And the trading performance of the long-established Hanson businesses is largely pedestrian.

Hanson's growth rate can therefore only be sustained by 'buying' profit. It has to make more and more acquisitions; something that becomes increasingly difficult as each one needs to be bigger than the last.

What's more, in 1985 Hanson paper performed dismally, falling some 20% compared with the FT All-Share index.

Against this record, in the same year, Imperial shares outperformed the index by some 25%.

And since 1981, Imperial profits have more than doubled.

Behind Imperial shares is over £1.5 billion of shareholders' net assets, and famous brands such as Courage Best, Hofmeister, John Smith's Bitter, Ross, Golden Wonder, Lea & Perrins, John Player Special and Superkings.

We believe Hanson can bring no industrial or commercial advantages to us at all.

So if you want to know what to do about Hanson's offer, the answer is: Hands off.



Full ahead to the big shows

The building of the National Exhibition Centre could be likened to a plan to launch a new ship into the teeth of a hurricane.

It faced strenuous opposition from a pro-London lobby and began operating a decade ago at a time of high inflation, political uncertainty and industrial decline, with a ferocious recession looming.

Few people were inclined to take kindly to a largely council-funded project that was to require a capital investment of £50 million, located on a greenfield site outside Birmingham, 100 miles from the exhibition centres of London, if its chances of success seemed remote even before it started. There were those who would happily have seen the NEC strangled at birth. Against that background the centre had to fight for its first business and try to carve out a living — and a reputation — in the highly competitive world of British and European exhibitions.

Ten years on, the NEC is making money and has established itself as the country's largest exhibition location, at 105,000 square metres twice the size of London's Earl's Court — its nearest U.K. rival — and the tenth largest in western Europe.

A master plan has been evolved to double its size by the year 2004 to take it further up the European league and put it in contention to stage some of the blockbuster European exhibitions which bring prestige and vital foreign earnings and recognition, although it will still be a long way behind the massive 471,000 square metres on offer in Hanover. In 1984-85, from an income of £25 million, the centre made a record trading surplus of about £9.3 million

and, after operating costs and debt charges had been paid, contributed £3 million to Birmingham's rate fund, repaying the early faith shown in the idea of a national exhibition complex by leaders of the then Birmingham Corporation and chamber of commerce and industry, which fought for a local site as long ago as 1969.

Those financial results were achieved in a peak year in what is considered a four-year cycle of exhibition business at the NEC. In 1985-86 the total income is expected to be £22 million, the repayment of debts £6.5 million and the contribution to the rate fund £1.2 million.

Behind the NEC's record is the multi-purpose range of facilities available in its nine halls and elsewhere on site, its location on the motorway network and alongside an international airport and railway station and a winning mix of events. They include trade and public exhibitions and shows, conventions, product launches, concerts and sports events.

It attracts millions of visitors a year

Each year it attracts three million visitors and the spin-off to the deeply depressed local economy is estimated at £60 million a year.

All but £1.5 million of the £50 million capital invested in the NEC on its site on the eastern outskirts of Birmingham was raised by Birmingham City Council. The NEC Company that sprang from the early partnership between civic and business leaders now manages and promotes the centre.

Terry Golding, the chief executive, realizes that the first decade could easily have

been a nightmare. He said: "Who would have chosen to open when we did, at a time of hyper inflation, just before the big recession and on farm land in the middle of nowhere?"

"I think we have answered all the dismal jones who said it would not work by establishing a good, profitable and sound business with enormous potential for the future."

Mr Golding, who did the same job at Earl's Court and Olympia before he joined the NEC eight years ago, added: "It has been a resounding success. We have settled into a regular calendar of regular events and our consultants believe that given relatively modest growth in the economy, we will be required to double in size to meet demand at peak times in the future."

Probably the most successful event at the NEC is the British International Motor Show. The centre signed a 10-year deal to stage the crowd-pulling show every

The centre, showing its large, lakeside site, is set, Terry Golding, chief executive of the NEC: "We have answered all those who said it would not work"

two years and it will be held again this year and in 1988. Negotiations are expected to start within the next few months for the prestige event to continue at the NEC.

Mr Golding said that when the show was held in London average attendances were about 400,000, with a record of 660,000 in its best year. It is now combined with commercial vehicles at the NEC where the attendance has averaged 750,000. He said: "That is a supreme example of something which has worked well for us and for the customer."

The NEC has established a calendar of 98 exhibitions, including the nine biggest international trade fairs in Britain, and each year it holds about 45 trade and 10 public exhibitions, more than



£1 million profit is made from pop and other concerts in its acoustically treated Arena Hall, sporting events, product launches and even bird and dog shows.

Successful exhibitions at the NEC include those for the gifts and hardware retail trade, machine tools, printing machinery, building and construction, plastics, packaging and construction equipment.

International recognition is crucial and in 1984 about 2,700 of the 12,800 companies exhibiting at the NEC were from overseas, creating an estimated £15 million worth of invisible earnings for Britain.

Nevertheless, there are periods of inactivity in the exhibition calendar so the

NEC must now look to Europe

NEC has its own exhibition and events division, an entrepreneurial arm consisting of a team of organizers whose job is to identify new areas of business and pioneer new shows. The 10 that have been developed now contribute about 8.5 per cent of the centre's gross income.

Other exhibition centres in the country are also intent on new ideas and new shows. Mr Golding said: "It is a very

competitive business. We see Earl's Court, Olympia and places like Harrogate and Manchester as breeding grounds for the NEC. If smaller shows are successful elsewhere, they look for larger venues and we have the space to house them."

Future success, though, demands that the NEC looks to the European scene. At the moment it does not have the space to compete for the blockbusters that fill European exhibition halls, such as ITMA, the international textile-machinery exhibition and EMO, the international machine-tool event.

That is why the master plan to double in size by the turn of the century is vital, but the scheme to expand to such a degree north of the centre is bogged down, temporarily Mr Golding believes, because West Midlands County Council has its own plan to build a high-technology industrial park.

Should the council get its way, it would frustrate plans for additional car parking space and hotel accommodation which are an integral part of the planned future growth.

There are other exciting prospects ahead for the next few years, in particular Birmingham's bid to stage the 1992 Olympic Games, which is no longer regarded as unrealistically optimistic. Birmingham's success in sweeping aside rival bids from London and Manchester was achieved largely because of the facilities available at the NEC for staging many Olympic indoor events and its proposal for an Olympic Village and a 70,000-seat Olympic Stadium on site, all within a secure perimeter fence.

The International Olympic Committee will decide on October which of the international bids for the 1992 Games will succeed. Mr Golding commented: "The Olympic Games — now that would be a feather in our cap."

The ace card is access

The greatest obstacle that appeared to confront the NEC in its planning stage was the proposed location — a greenfield site on the eastern rim of Birmingham, Britain's second city, 100 miles from the crowd-pulling attractions of London that were a magnet for exhibitors and their customers.

Ten years on that location is now overwhelmingly regarded as a great advantage and the centre's marketing officials promote "ease of access" for all its worth.

On one day during the Motor Show at the NEC, 120,000 visitors poured into its massive halls. The car parks were jammed with 15,000 cars, 1,000 exhibitor's vehicles and 800 coaches. Inter-city trains deposited countless thousands of passengers at the modern railway station adjacent to the complex. That was a record day.

Apparently the executives who operate the even larger exhibition centre at Düsseldorf now describe the NEC as "the centre of the short walk", not simply for its location alongside Birmingham International Airport and the main-line railway station, but also because its huge exhibition halls are inter-linked.

The NEC is only a stone's throw from the M6 and M42 and is at the heart of the motorway system. An estimated 28 million people live within 100 miles of the complex, which covers 400 acres.

Of the nine "halls", two are promoted for purposes other than simple exhibition space.

Hall 7 is better known as Birmingham International Arena. It has a clear span interior and tiered seating for 12,000 spectators. Neil Diamond, Diana Ross and other superstars of the pop world have played to packed audiences there, while British Telecom, at its first annual general meeting since privatization, entertained a more modest gathering of 4,000 shareholders.

A £250,000 demountable ice rink has now been commissioned and its first expected use will be by Torvill and Dean during SportAid, a Bob Geldof-style event to help famine victims in Africa, scheduled for May.

Hall 8, known as the Forum, is a 4,000 square metre "black box" facility from which natural light is excluded in order to appeal to the organisers of private, corporate presentations and ritzy product launches.

The NEC has two on-site hotels, the Birmingham Metropole and Warwick, offering 700 rooms. The Metropole has a conference centre for 1,200 delegates and 1,000 banqueting guests with 34 meeting rooms and a 200-seat cinema.

John Cole, the NEC's marketing manager, said: "Accessibility is really our ace card, an almost unique amalgam of road, rail and air facilities in a central position."

At the recent Interplas Exhibition, an international plastics show, 26 per cent of the visitors arrived from 103 overseas countries. The airport is linked to the railway station and the NEC complex by the revolutionary Maglev "hover train" passenger transit system.

The new £60 million terminal at the airport was opened in 1984 — an improvement which was largely attributed to the increasing business at the NEC.

Scheduled "business" destinations from Birmingham now include Amsterdam, Brussels, Copenhagen, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Hanover, Munich, Paris, Geneva, Milan and Zurich and all major British airports. Air France is now operating a daily Paris service. Netherlands flies to Amsterdam and Lufthansa starts services from next month. The Birmingham International railway station has 80 minute services linked to London and connects with Birmingham city in less than 20 minutes.

We forecast another ten years of working wonders with figures.



1976 1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986

Over the last decade, the NEC in Birmingham has had a magical effect on the growth of exhibitions and events, large and small. Giants like the British International Motor Show, boasting a record year in 1984, Interbuild (Britain's largest single trade event), the International Spring Fair (occupying every inch of hall space) and IPEX (a European leader in print and graphic design) have all expanded and prospered. And it's not only the big shows. Since they came to us, high-tech exhibitions such as Which Computer?, Design Engineering and Electrex have seen higher attendances every year.

We've even helped the gardeners grow. In 10 years with us, GLEE (the Garden and Leisure Exhibition) has happily tripled its floor space.

In 1986 and 1987 we have already attracted 26 new exhibitors, convincing twelve additional organisers who previously had not brought shows to Birmingham.

Not to mention the host of product launches, sports championships, conventions and concerts that now come to us every year.

It could simply be that the NEC is the largest and yet most flexible centre of its kind in Britain. There's the 1,200-bed luxury Metropole hotel and confer-

ence centre 'on site' as well as the facilities of the Birmingham Convention and Visitor Bureau, helping to promote the NEC and the 'Big Heart of England' all over the world.

On NEC's unique accessibility. Besides direct motorway links and our own main line station, we've recently added a fine international airport terminal with fast increasing overseas services.

Perhaps it's because we've just spent another £5 million on improving the centre and developed a stunning 'black box' stage-setting ideal for product launches.

Or maybe it's because we can organise shows as well as stage them. The talented professionals in our Exhibitions and Events Division are helping to initiate a series of successful new shows.

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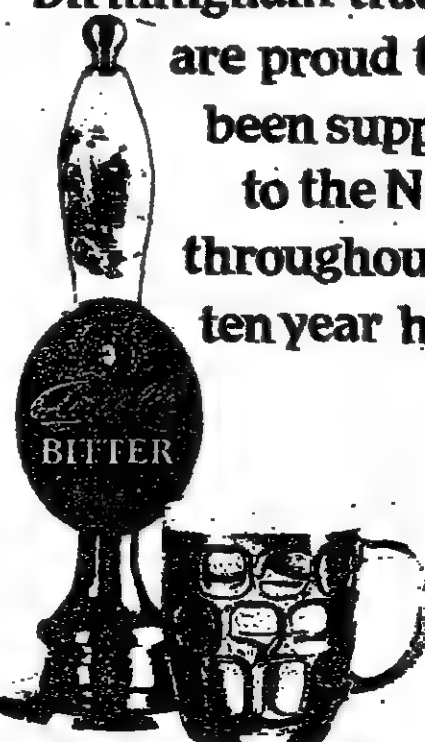
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DOUGLAS

BUILT THE NEC

هكذا من الأصل

**Double
in size
is the
target**

Ten years after it opened, the National Exhibition Centre is estimated to have carved out a 271m share, about 37 per cent, of the £19m a year spent by British industry on trade shows and exhibitions. It has been traditional for British industry to spend a much smaller proportion of its promotional budgets on exhibitions than western European industrialists. Before the NEC opened, it was as little as 3 per cent, but that has risen to a more respectable 8 per cent in the last few years.

In spite of the increasing use of exhibitions over the last decade in the UK, it still lags a long way behind countries like West Germany where it was estimated that up to a quarter of promotional budgets went into exhibitions.

The European industrialists' commitment to exhibitions and trade shows as a successful form of marketing their wares created the demand for the huge exhibition facilities which now exist on the constituent sites such as Cologne, Frankfurt, Paris and Milan, all which boast over 200,000 square metres and, Hannover, with its mammoth 471,000 square metres, compared with the 105,000 square metres available at the NEC.

Although the NEC is the largest exhibition centre in the UK - twice the size of its nearest rival - the fact that it lies tenth in the European table makes it essential that it should carry through plans to double in size by the end of the century and be in a position to compete for some of the giant international exhibitions which do the rounds of continental cities.

Sandy Angus, the chairman of the Association of Exhibition Organizers, pays due tribute to the NEC, saying that no one can compete with it in Britain for major international shows. But he concedes that the Europeans have a number of considerable advantages.

He said: "Britain is less well-served than Europe simply because we cannot build regionally the sizes of



NEC people — Top left: Kenneth Baker (left), security manager, with Kenneth Stacey, the traffic inspector. Right: Andrew Frayne with head chef Paul Gould. Above: Terry Golding (front centre) with fellow executives at the exhibition centre in Birmingham

venues which the Europeans seem able to do with the kind of subsidies they get from local authorities, their governments and the EEC.

"In the UK we are probably the least subsidized industry in the world and that is why our prices for stand space and hire of halls are among the highest in the world—certainly twice as expensive as our major European competitors and probably three or four times more expensive than America."

Mr Angus said that although the cost of space was a small proportion of the total money a company spent on exhibiting, it was unfortunately the emotive figure on which crucial decisions were frequently taken.

He estimated that the exhibition industry was worth well over £500m annually, including the amount spent by visitors, and he was convinced that the NEC had been a shot in the arm. He was convinced the Birmingham based centre

was the best in Europe, with the possible exception of Dusseldorf and, the only true international centre in Britain apart from the smaller Earls Court and Olympia.

According to the Association of Exhibition Organizers, over 700 exhibitions are held annually in the UK. The number of full and part-time jobs created by exhibitions in the UK is

that according to market research carried out by Exhibition Surveys, an exhibitor would have faced average costs of £26 for each useful contact at a trade show in Britain in 1984—taking account of all direct costs such as staff salaries, hotel and travel bills.

That compared favourably, they said, with the estimated £50 cost of individual industrial sales calls.

According to Mr Angus and his organization, exhibitions were increasingly being recognized as a vital and successful form of marketing and promotion.

That was the importance of success stories such as that at the NEC. He said: "There is no one to compete with the centre in Britain in terms of major international shows. It has enabled this country to run exhibitions of size and to compete with our European competitors."

Direct competition with marketing

estimated at about 16,000, although many more are indirectly supported.

The organization estimates that for every £1 spent in connection with an exhibition, an additional £9 is spent in hotels, restaurants and on transport and other services.

Exhibition organizers are in direct competition with other forms of marketing, promotion and advertising.

Executives at the NEC say:

EXHIBITION CARPET AND FLOOR

The flagship of the city

Birmingham has suffered the hammer blows of the recession, but Tom Cawston, the city's ebullient chief executive, believes in shouting about its brash, go-getting image and says the NEC is an example of what that approach can achieve.

He said of the centre: "It is one of the flagships of the city. It has put us on the map. It shows we are a lively, go-head place that can turn projects that people said would never work into roaring successes.

"It provides a shop window for the area, boosting industry, and it has created many jobs directly and indirectly. It is making money for the city and for the region, yet I remember that people said it would never work, that it was going to be a white elephant."

Recent research, in fact, suggests that the economic "spin-off" to the region from activities at the NEC is now well over £60m a year, compared with less than £50m in 1976-77, based on the amount estimated to be spent in an average year by exhibition visitors, exhibitors and non-local contractors staff.

NEC FACTFILE
Size: 9 halls, 105,000
square metres
Planned
growth: 200,000 square
metres
Capital
Investment: £50m
Total income
1984-85: £25m
Trading
surplus: £9.3m
Net profit
1984-85: £3m
Visitors: 3m annually
Value to
region: £80m annually
Permanent
staff: 350
Local jobs
supported: 2,900
On-site
hotel rooms: 700
Parking: 15,000

has provided an impetus for the major improvement and expansion to Birmingham International Airport and it has enhanced the conference market elsewhere within the West Midlands.

Recent estimates also suggest that an additional 600 jobs could be created during the next five years as the NEC puts in hand the first stages of its plan to double in size by the end of the century.

Mr Caulcott said that the success of the NEC had also played a significant part in the decision to build a new convention centre, a £106m city centre complex of halls and a five-star hotel, which would be financed in part by borrowing against the "asset" of the exhibition centre.

The convention centre is expected to take about four years to complete and could provide up to 2,000 new jobs and bring an additional £40m a year into the local economy. The two centres, he said, would be closely linked and complement each other's activities.

The collapse of industry in the West Midlands and the huge unemployment that followed has fed Birmingham

and the surrounding area increasingly into the service sector - the NEC and the proposed convention centre are proof of that. The massive number of visitors to the NEC - about three million a year - has boosted plans for new British Caledonian Hotel in the city centre, a new hotel at the airport and hotel developments in and around Solihull.

Frank Graves, the President of Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce, said: "The NEC generates enormous business in hotels, restaurants and shops in the area. I know of one men's outfitters whose owner stocks up with shirts every time there is a big exhibition because foreign visitors, particularly the Germans, clear his shelves when they come to town. That is good business."

It is not surprising, considering his background, that Mr Graves says the NEC has been a "gigantic success". He was its project controller before it was built and is project controller both for the centre's planned expansion and of Birmingham's proposed convention centre.

Filling gaps in the calendar

Derek Lyons is in show business. For, as director of the the exhibition and events division of the National Exhibition Centre, he heads a 25-strong team which has the job of pioneering new shows to help fill gaps in the NEC business calendar.

Mr Lyons said: "The NEC decided that it would be desirable to fill some of the gaps which occur in our calendar rather than be entirely dependent on independent promoters and, I must say, with 10 new exhibitions on our desks, we have made rapid and substantial progress."

His team talks to potential exhibitors and authoritative bodies in the trade or industry concerned, checks with the trade press and researchers potential customers to see if there is a gap

in the market that can be filled at the NEC.

He said: "A new idea is either going to be a total disaster or take root. We really do not expect to reap a great reward the first time, but some of our exhibitions are coming around for the second or third time. I think the breakthrough has been achieved."

Before the formation of the division in 1983, with Mr Lyons joining the NEC, there had been an events department largely responsible for servicing the needs of independent promoters for events such as concerts, conventions, industrial theatre and sporting occasions - vital elements in the NEC's success but not entrepreneurial in the sense that new business was conceived.

Mr Lyons said that many

important exhibitions that had been successfully placed in the NEC calendar. The International Safety Exhibition, sponsored by the RSPCA, had become the definitive show for the UK. Its next presentation was likely to be 120 per cent larger than the last event in 1985.

Autotech, an international automotive technology exhibition staged in October, had been treated out of approach to the NEC by the automobile division of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, which held a congress at the same time. That exhibition would now be alternated with the Motor Show, staged every other year.

A marketing and promotion services exhibition had also been held, a Midlands

manufacturer's clothing and fashion fair would start next February and an August fair for collectors of antiques and memorabilia starts this year. But, Mr Lyons said: "We do not necessarily seek shows which will be enormous on their first outing. We also hold small specialist events. It is a popular misconception that you can hold only large exhibitions at the NEC. We have had successful exhibitions of over 1,500 square metres compared with something like Interbuild, which occupies about 55,000 square metres."

The NEC is also following a European trend and an increasing number of exhibitions are now associated with conferences and seminars that are part of the overall programme.

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on the occasion of its 10th birthday.



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(NEC, 2-6 February 1986), Britain's largest consumer goods trade fair, was the first exhibition ever to occupy the NEC. Backed by TPS organisation and construction, the ISF is just one of many major TPS fairs for the giftware industry, promoting international trade.

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BASKETBALL

US star is accused of getting lenient deal from referees

By Nicholas Harling

Leicester's reach, although they never surrendered. Portsmouth and Sharp Manchester United, the other contenders, both had easy wins - Portsmouth by 84-66 against struggling Home Spare Bolton, United with a 96-82 success against Hemel/Watford, whose place

United's neighbours, Manchester Giants, were the latest victims of the revival by Brunel Ducks Uxbridge and Camden. The most impressive promoted team for five years, Uxbridge followed their victories against Leicester last week and at Hemel in midweek by winning 87-78 at Altrincham with the help of 31 points

QRS Sunderland, who were beaten 129-113 at Happy Eater Bracknell, have released one of their Americans, Victor Alexander, who has joined a Venezuelan first division club. "He's had an unfortunate time what with

injuries and trying to get into shape but he's done a good job for us in some games." Dave Elderkin, the Sunderland coach said. Dykstra's 44 points for Sunderland made him the week's top scorer but to no avail.

Nissan Bears Worthing, still with hopes of making the play-offs, almost suffered a shock defeat at McEwan Tyneside who were 14 points

up with four minutes to go. Tyneside then made the mistake of holding on to what they had, enabling Shackleford to inspire a Worthing recovery in over-time by 91-81.

The other first division match, at Crystal Palace, started half an hour late as visiting Birmingham broke down enroute, which left

INIS
e chance to

claim a place at top

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

The retirement of Susan Barker and Virginia Wade in turn has left room at the top

ing last month's qualifying competition for the inaugural European Cup, and indoors

team championship. Miss Brown, too, must be considered for a doubles place.

Britain won their group in the European Cup, which has the same format as the Federation Cup, and could become the inaugural champions when the six nations, who have qualified for the first division, contest the title from November 27-30 at a venue that has yet to be decided. Much depends on the quality of the players available for the other competing teams.

Last month, at Doano (Italy), Miss Croft and Miss Gomer shouldered the burden. "They had some valuable experience". Miss Mappin said yesterday. "Annabel played number one, without being accus-

used to the pressure. As number two, Sara had to start the ties off and did it very adequately. As they won the qualifying rounds I would like to give those two the same experience again, in November, if they are

The Wightman Cup event will be played four weeks earlier, at the Albert Hall, and there could be a vacancy for one of a host of presently obscure teenagers.



(left) and Comer

Mrs Lloyd wins again

the second seed and No 6 in the world, picked up \$20,000 for her runner-up finish in front of 4,912 spectators.

After Miss Graf broke Mrs Lloyd's service to get even at 3-3 in the first set, the 31-year-old former Wimbledon champion wore down her opponent and won 12 of the

opponent and won 12 to 11.
next 14 points to win the set.
Miss Graf regained her
composure long enough to
break Mrs. Lloyd's serve in the
first game of the second set,
but the 16-year-old West
German fell apart when a bad
line call cost her the next
game.

She won only four more
points the rest of the way,
losing two games to love.

Royscar should make most of favourable conditions

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

With Mr Snuffit declared for the Stanwix Handicap Chase at Carlisle this afternoon and orders for the George Coney Challenge Cup at Warwick, this year's Grand National will be uppermost in the minds of many again today.

The two finished second and third respectively behind Last Suspect in last year's Aintree spectacular. And of course Corbiere also finished third the year before having won the big race in 1983.

While his trainer, Jenny Pitman, clearly resents the handicapper's decision to give her horse as much as 11st 4lb to carry around Liverpool this spring she can have no qualms about his weight for the feature race at Warwick this afternoon.

However, well though I expect her pride and joy to go with only 10st 12lb, more especially as he showed a glimmer of sparkle at Cheltenham last month when he finished fourth behind Knock Hill over four miles, I still prefer Royscar in this instance.

The eventual winner will have to be a horse who stays really well and revels in muddy conditions underfoot. Also he must be in form. To my way of thinking Royscar fits that bill and he is my idea of a sporting nap. Not to be confused with Roystrip who also runs in the same race, Royscar seems to be better now than at any time in his life and that is something that appeals to me about a horse with only 10st to carry.

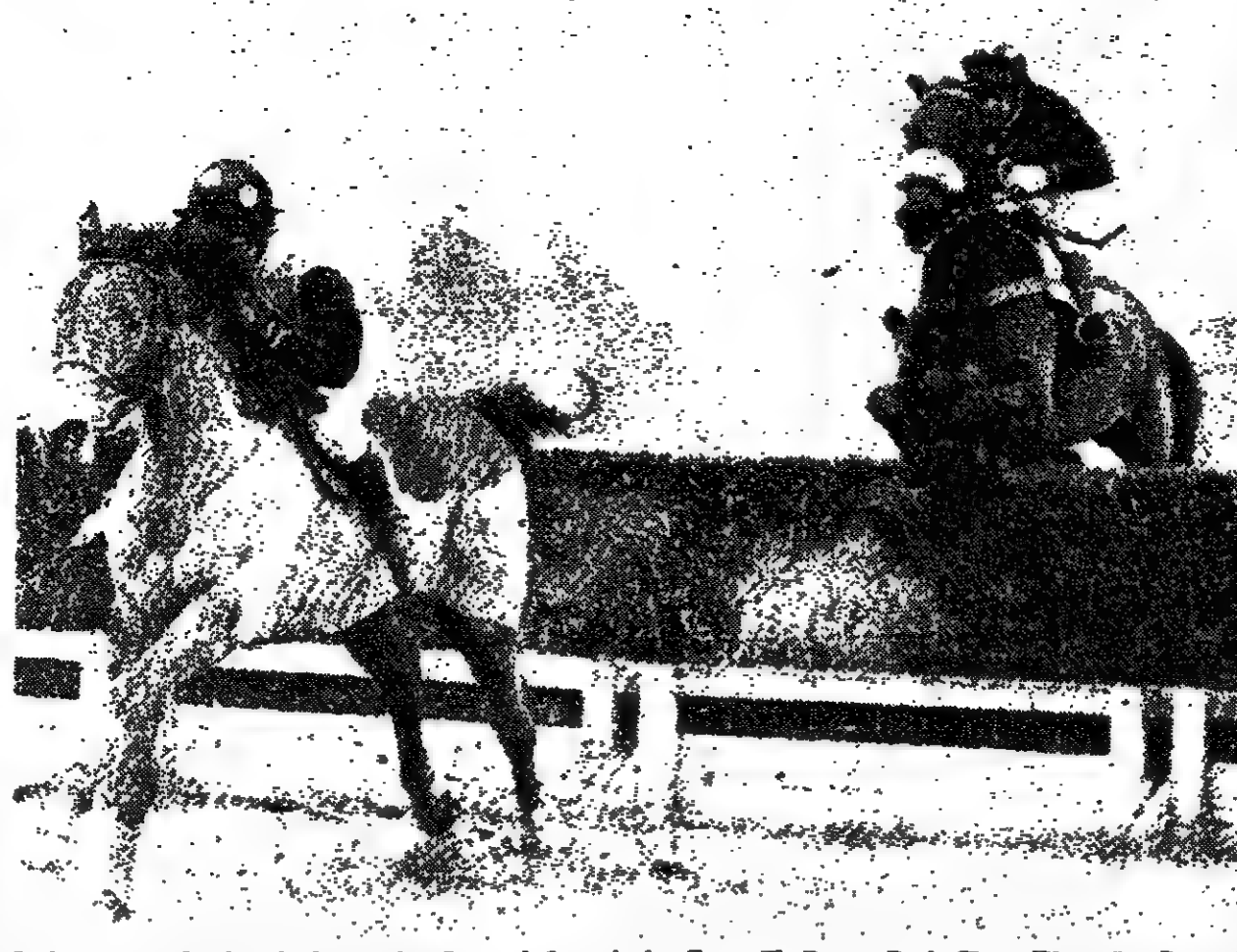
The first sign of that

improvement was to be gleaned at Newton Abbot on Boxing Day when he finished second to Broadheath, who had himself won three of his four previous races. In third place that day was the hot favourite, Ballinacorra Lad, whose subsequent form reads so well. Then Royscar went to Wincanton 12 days ago where he finished in grand style at the end of three miles and a furlong to beat Macoliver who had won his two previous races.

To me all that says that Royscar will prove hard to beat this afternoon, even though, with his penalty, he still has 3lb more to carry than his official rating. Apart from Corbiere, Sam Wrekin, Little Polveir, Flaxen Tina, Roystrip and Leckie will provide tough opposition.

If Corbiere is beaten his trainer should derive some consolation by at least winning the Malden Timber (EBF) Novices' Hurdle (Qualifier) with Lafosse. Otherwise it could easily pay to pin one's faith on two horses who fell last time out quite uncharacteristically. Rainbow Lady (2.00) got no further than the second flight at Wincanton last time out. Before that she made most of the running to win here at Warwick and now I expect her to go well again in the Burton Hill Handicap Hurdle.

Fudge Delight, my selection for the Princethorpe Novices' Chase, also came a cropper last time out at Kempton. But before that he had run Berlin to four lengths at Lingfield.



Graiguenamagh takes the last behind Cresson before winning Footwell's Bogor Regis Chase (Photo: Ian Stewart)

My Dominion boosts Festival claim

My Dominion, carrying the colours of Terry Ramond, the first time, and also substantial pile of off-course money, took his winning sequence to five in the bet With The Tote Novices' Hurdle. Jonathan Lower, aged 17, scoring his 17th success of the season, was riding at Footwell for the first time and had a battle to settle My Dominion in the early stages, especially with Christo taking him on, but My Dominion never faltered and stormed home four lengths clear of San Carlos.

My Dominion will be one of Ramond's three runners in the Triumph at Cheltenham, but his main hope must be Brunica, who runs next at Kempton.

Pipe watched another of his long-year-olds, Grady Lane, beaten into second place in the opening division of the Bishop's Wood Novice Hurdle at Wolverhampton. Despite having the ground, Dan Raine beat the 11-8 favourite a length, with Vulvory's Clown a further three lengths away third.

Martin Brennan set out to lead all the way on Vulvory's Clown and the combination was still at the head of affairs jumping the last flight, but he was soon overtaken by the winner and then the favourite.

Mark Pitman, who rode Dan Raine for his mother, Jenny, described the ground as "bottomless." He brought Dan Raine on the outside, attempting to pick the better ground and although his mount was hanging towards the other horses the move paid dividends.

Jenny Pitman reported that Barrough Hill Lad came out of Saturday's Sandown Park victory well and there were no problems following his significant comeback.

Mrs Pitman completed a double when she saddled even-money favourite Searnsby to lead all the way under Peter Scudamore for a

convincing victory in the EBF Novices' Chase. "Peter has ridden four winners for me, and finished third on Corbiere in the Grand National on his only other mount for me," said the Lambourn trainer.

Searnsby jumped to the right, just as he did when scoring on the course last month until the last fence, which he took perfectly.

Scudamore completed a 2-1 double on King Be, 5-1 favourite in the Burnhill Handicap Chase, to go to the top of the jockeys' table with 52 winners - one more than Simon Sherwood.

Damages awarded to train driver after accident

Wigg v British Railways Board

Before Mr Justice Tucker (Judgment given January 31)

A train driver was entitled to succeed in his claim for damages for shock and trauma suffered when he came upon the body of a person very soon after it had been struck down by a door on the train he was driving as it pulled away from a station and the driver had descended from his cab to search for the victim.

It was reasonably foreseeable by the defendants that the driver would behave as he did, that there was a risk he might suffer nervous shock as a consequence, and that they were in breach of the duty of care they owed him.

Mr Justice Tucker so held in the Queen's Bench Division when he found that the plaintiff suffered nervous shock as a consequence of his accident on January 1, 1981, at Thorpe Bay Station, Essex, in which the victim had died.

Mr Allan Gore for the plaintiff, Mr F.M. Mann-Johnson for the board.

MR JUSTICE TUCKER said that the plaintiff had been employed by the defendants for 32 years, 20 as a train driver. On the day of the accident he started the train from the platform after he had received the signal from his guard that it was safe to move off.

The train was brought to a halt by the emergency brakes after it had travelled about 2 1/2 carriage lengths. The victim was attempting to board the train as it moved off, and since he held on to the door handle, he was dragged along the platform until he fell between it and the train.

The plaintiff searched the track and found the victim whom he unwittingly believed was alive; he began to speak to him to comfort him until help arrived. He remained at the edge of the platform for at least 10 minutes and, according to a

witness, began to tremble from shock.

The guard should have seen the open carriage door, was negligent in causing the train to start and his negligence caused the accident for which the defendants were vicariously liable.

His Lordship derived from *McLoughlin v O'Brien* (1983) 1 AC 410 the principles, *inter alia*, that a claim for nervous shock caused by negligence could succeed if the plaintiff satisfied the strict test of proximity by sight or hearing, that cases should not be judged by policy considerations but on their own merits; that the fundamental question in each case was one of reasonable foreseeability; where the plaintiff came upon a serious accident involving numerous people and acted as a rescuer of those involved; that the plaintiff was assumed to be a person of normal disposition and (heighen per Lord Bridge at pp441 D-F and 443 A-E).

The defendants conceded it was foreseeable a driver would get out of his cab, would help to search for the body, might cause a claim and in the present case, might come upon the consequences of the accident very soon.

But they claimed it was not foreseeable that train drivers of reasonable firmness of mind would suffer nervous shock, and added that the plaintiff had had two previous experiences of death on the track in 1979 and 1980.

His Lordship found that the plaintiff had done more than the ordinary disinterested bystander would do; he searched for and found the victim, he remained near him and offered words of comfort; if he had remained alive, as the plaintiff believed he was, his presence would have been of great support to him.

The plaintiff could be described as a rescuer in the circumstances but in any event, that was unnecessary since the nervous shock suffered was reasonably foreseeable.

He recommended that the award of £4,000 plus interest and costs, against his employers, the British Railways Board, after an accident on the evening of December 16, 1981, at Thorpe Bay Station, Essex, in which the victim had died.

MR JUSTICE TUCKER said that the plaintiff had been employed by the defendants for 32 years, 20 as a train driver. On the day of the accident he started the train from the platform after he had received the signal from his guard that it was safe to move off.

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witness, began to tremble from shock.

The guard should have seen the open carriage door, was negligent in causing the train to start and his negligence caused the accident for which the defendants were vicariously liable.

His Lordship derived from *McLoughlin v O'Brien* (1983) 1 AC 410 the principles, *inter alia*, that a claim for nervous shock caused by negligence could succeed if the plaintiff satisfied the strict test of proximity by sight or hearing, that cases should not be judged by policy considerations but on their own merits; that the fundamental question in each case was one of reasonable foreseeability; where the plaintiff came upon a serious accident involving numerous people and acted as a rescuer of those involved; that the plaintiff was assumed to be a person of normal disposition and (heighen per Lord Bridge at pp441 D-F and 443 A-E).

The defendants conceded it was foreseeable a driver would get out of his cab, would help to search for the body, might cause a claim and in the present case, might come upon the consequences of the accident very soon.

But they claimed it was not foreseeable that train drivers of reasonable firmness of mind would suffer nervous shock, and added that the plaintiff had had two previous experiences of death on the track in 1979 and 1980.

His Lordship found that the plaintiff had done more than the ordinary disinterested bystander would do; he searched for and found the victim, he remained near him and offered words of comfort; if he had remained alive, as the plaintiff believed he was, his presence would have been of great support to him.

The plaintiff could be described as a rescuer in the circumstances but in any event, that was unnecessary since the nervous shock suffered was reasonably foreseeable.

He recommended that the award of £4,000 plus interest and costs, against his employers, the British Railways Board, after an accident on the evening of December 16, 1981, at Thorpe Bay Station, Essex, in which the victim had died.

MR JUSTICE TUCKER said that the plaintiff had been employed by the defendants for 32 years, 20 as a train driver. On the day of the accident he started the train from the platform after he had received the signal from his guard that it was safe to move off.

The train was brought to a halt by the emergency brakes after it had travelled about 2 1/2 carriage lengths. The victim was attempting to board the train as it moved off, and since he held on to the door handle, he was dragged along the platform until he fell between it and the train.

The plaintiff searched the track and found the victim whom he unwittingly believed was alive; he began to speak to him to comfort him until help arrived. He remained at the edge of the platform for at least 10 minutes and, according to a

witness, began to tremble from shock.

WARWICK

Going soft.

- 1.30 RYTON NOVICE HURDLE (21.5lb; 2m) (25 runners)
- 1151 CLEARLY BUILT (C) (H) 11-13 D Hood (7)
11504 WHAT WILL I WEAR (D) (L) 11-13 D Hood (7)
- ARTIC WONG (T) (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
00 GAREN (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
00 CVM (W) 11-13 D Hood (7)
00 SURE (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
00 SILVER GLEN (L) 11-13 D Hood (7)
00 FATHER MACK (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
00 PLIST (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
- 4346-4 HOME OF LORDS (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
00 NEALING (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
00 SON MY SON (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
00 DUNLOP (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
00 WATER PISTOL (D) 11-13 D Hood (7)
00 JACOB LANE (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
00 LADY REVERIE (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
00 MARY KATE (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
00 TOMMY (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
00 TRUE BLOSSOM (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
00 CLAUDES MEN (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
00 WALKER (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
- 00 CHAMBERLAIN (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
00 AYE FLASHER (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
00 CHERRY BUSH (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
00 MARY KATE (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)

Warwick selections

- 1.30 Clearly Built, 2.0 Rainbow Lady, 2.30 ROYSCAR (nap), 3.0 Lafosse, 3.30 Fudge Delight, 4.0 Siobhan's Joy, 4.30 All Intent.

2.0 BURTON HILL HANDICAP HURDLE (2.267; 2m) (25)

- 115144 PRINCE CAPTAIN (L) 11-13 D Hood (7)
4303-1F RAINBOW LADY (C) (B) 11-13 D Hood (7)
401-4 AMBRIAN HILL (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 THE WELDER (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 GOLD KILN (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 PATRICK (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 LILLY (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 LITTLE LAD (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 WALTON (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 ORBITAL MANOEUVRES (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
- 401-4 BROCK HILL (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
401-4 WOODWAY (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
401-4 BARKING (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
401-4 YORK COTTAGE (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
401-4 ALBERT (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
401-4 TRAM (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
401-4 APPALACHIAN (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
401-4 ROYAL BAZZ (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
401-4 ROYAL LASS (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
401-4 BLOW MY TOP (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
401-4 SUNDAY GROVE (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
401-4 OYSTER (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
- 401-4 DUNLOP (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
401-4 RECORD (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
401-4 DISCOVER GOLD (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)

2.30 GEORGE CONEY CHALLENGE CUP (Handicap chase; £3,967; 3m; 41 (180) (13)

- 115144 RUPERT (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 BARK WIND (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 CONNOR (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 GOLDEN KILN (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 LITTLE LAD (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 FLAXEN TINA (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 GREENBANK PARK (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 ROYAL BAZZ (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 LEQUE (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 BARKING (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 BARKING (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
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115144 BARKING (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 BARKING (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)

3.0 MALDEN TIMBER (EBF) NOVICE HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (23.158; 2m) (25)

- 115144 FOXES CASTLE (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 ONE FOR MAMMY (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 TIKZON (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 ADAMANT (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 ADAMANT (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 ADAMANT (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
- 115144 ADAMANT (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 ADAMANT (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 ADAMANT (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 ADAMANT (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 ADAMANT (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 ADAMANT (C) (R) 11-13 D Hood (7)

Fontwell results

- 1.30 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
1.30 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
1.30 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
1.30 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
1.30 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
1.30 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)

Official scratchings: All

Official scratchings: All

Official scratchings: All

Official scratchings: All

Official scratchings: All

Official scratchings: All

Official scratchings: All

Official scratchings: All

Official scratchings: All

Official scratchings: All

CARLISLE

Going heavy

- 1.15 KINGMOOR HANDICAP CHASE (21,192.2m) (8 runners)
- 115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
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115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)

Carlisle selections

- 1.15 Ivacop, 1.45 Golden Holly, 2.15 Joe's Fancy, 2.45 Vale Of Secrecy, 3.15 The Thinker, 3.45 Mr Chris.

2.15 BET WITH THE TOTE NOVICE CHASE (QUALIFIER) (21,192.2m) (15)

- 115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
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115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)

2.45 MALDEN TIMBER (EBF) NOVICE HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (23,158.2m) (25)

- 115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
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115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)

3.15 STANWIX HANDICAP CHASE (22,148.3m) (10)

- 115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
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115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
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115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)
115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)

3.45 HEATHERSILL HANDICAP HURDLE (23,922.3m 100 yds) (15)

115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)

115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)

115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)

115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)

115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)

115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)

115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)

115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)

115144 WIGG (M) 11-13 D Hood (7)

Justices can override counsel's wishes

Regina v Highbury Corner

Magistrates' Court, Ex parte

McGrath

Same v Same, Ex parte Spira

Same v Same, Ex parte Spira

Same v Same, Ex parte Spira

Same v Same, Ex parte Spira

Same v Same, Ex parte Spira

Same v Same, Ex parte Spira

Same v Same, Ex parte Spira

Same v Same, Ex parte Spira

Same v Same, Ex parte Spira

Same v Same, Ex parte Spira

Same v Same, Ex parte Spira

Same v Same, Ex parte Spira

Same v Same, Ex parte Spira

Same v Same, Ex parte Spira

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Same v Same, Ex parte Spira

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Salary will fully reflect the responsibilities of this important position. A full range of benefits applies, including contributory pension and executive car scheme. Relocation assistance will be provided if applicable.

Please send details of age, qualifications, experience and present salary to:- Stephen Huard, Manager Employment & Development, Mobil Oil Co. Ltd., Mobil House, 54-60 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QB.

Mobil

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The P&O Group with extensive interests in shipping, transportation, service industries, construction and property requires an additional Solicitor for its Head Office Legal Department in Pall Mall. This is an opportunity to work with a small dedicated team at the centre of a very active Company and will offer a challenging and stimulating career to the successful candidate.

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Please send a full C.V. quoting current salary to W E Hedley, Personnel Manager, The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, Canbury House, 47 Middlesex Street, LONDON E1 7AL

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Select Corporate Services Ltd.
Homeric House, 3 Mount Pleasant
Douglas, Isle of Man

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A carnival of protest in Haiti

From Trevor Fishlock
St Marc, Haiti

President-for-life Jean Claude Duvalier, "Baby Doc", changed the name of Haiti's brutal and sinister special police force. But Haitians still call it the Tonton Macoutes, and its stock-in-trade is still terror and extortion.

Here in the seaside town of St Marc we were shown the bodies of two citizens shot the night before by the Macoutes. People claimed that more had been killed and one man said it was hard to be sure of numbers after such shootings because bodies were sometimes dumped in the hills.

It was a dramatic day at St Marc. Anger, exuberance, fear, confusion and the evident ache for change made it a microcosm of Haiti's turmoil.

A large anti-Government demonstration was being called, a bold act after years of repression and a sign of the way the tide is running.

People were flocking in answer to the signal rung out on church bells. "Twenty-nine dead years with the Duvaliers. Not enough work, not enough food. It is time for it to end," a man of 22 said bitterly. He had no English so he could not read the slogan on his tourist T-shirt - "It's better in Haiti".

A woman of 30 said: "We don't care who takes Duvalier's place. We want a better life and we want him out."

A schoolteacher said: "We want the Americans to take over, and set up a democracy." "Indeed, this seemed a popular idea with many people, though one or two noted thoughtfully that the Americans had been supporting the dictatorship for years."

There had been trouble in St Marc over the previous two days. People had barricaded the streets and looted food and medicine from a warehouse on the quay.

People said that on the first day of disturbances the local Tonton Macoutes had opened fire. Then a strange thing happened. The army disarmed the Macoutes and the soldiers were hailed as the people's protectors.

The sudden Macoutes, their faces drawn, had slunk off. On Saturday, more Macoutes came in and started shooting. As well as the bodies shown



here, there are seven people in hospital with bullet wounds. By now 2000 people had gathered for the demonstration. A steel band banged out rhythm and the people danced and kicked up the dust, their faces filled with joy.

They hoisted the Stars and Stripes alongside the pre-Duvalier Haitian flag. They sang and chanted at the tops of their voices, the songs echoing the Creole slogans on rough placards - "Down with Duvalier", "Down with the dictator".

There was a tremendous din as people blew conches and banged tin cans and rattled sticks. As they marched and swayed they held aloft a coffin painted with the slogan Jean-Claude Duvalier, Little boys jumped into the coffin and made faces.

It was a carnival of protest. The people had the fever of freedom. Spectators slapped each other in glee and laughed to see each fan.

Britons hope to fly out today

Britons trapped in troubled Haiti believe they could be flown out to Jamaica today.

The men - four from Kent the other from Sussex - are guests of the Haiti Rotary Club and were caught up in the riots.

Speaking on BBC local radio, Mr Paul Downes, a dentist, said that "it's eerie during the day because it

seems so normal", but at night they can hear gunfire.

A colleague, Mr Andrew Davis, a chartered accountant from Gillingham, said in a message to his family: "There is absolutely no need to worry whatsoever. We're perfectly safe."

Together with the rest of the group, Mr Stephen Elliott, a Tonbridge policeman,

Mr Andrew Dagger, a personnel officer from Ashford, and the leader of the group, Mr Ian Hesketh, of Eastbourne, Sussex, they hope to fly out to Jamaica today.

The Foreign Office said there were about 60 British residents in Haiti.

But it also issued advice to them: "Sit tight and keep your heads down."

Although it was dark he wore dark glasses. He was a skinny man and he balanced the butt of his rifle on the buckle of his belt, while rotating his pelvis to the rhythm. He looked obscene and reptilian.

Although a symbol and perpetrator of bullying, misery and extortion, he was part of this happy crowd. He saw me and suddenly his lips parted in a terrible smile. It was as if a skull had grinned.

North suffers in the snow

By Michael Horsnell

Drifting snow up to 10 ft deep brought further misery to the North, Wales and Scotland yesterday.

The severe weather continued to hit the Pennines and the Derbyshire Peak District hardest. Most major roads were closed and police said the only safe route was the M62.

In mid-Wales, high winds and snow drifts closed the A470 Merllyn to Brecon road at Stoney Arms, and in Scotland the A939 Cockbridge to Tomintoul road and the A93 near Spittal of Glenhead were closed.

Freezing weather caused an underground explosion of methane gas and put two pits in south Wales out of action. No one was hurt but miners working a mile away from the blast were locked over.

Electricity engineers using helicopters were trying to restore power to isolated communities in the Buxton area after conditions worsened early yesterday, freezing lines and bringing down cables, affecting 600 households. About 1,500 homes lost power in the Ludlow area of Shropshire.

On the Continent, southern Europe began to return to normal. But fresh snowfalls and avalanches continued to paralyse parts of south east France. Two firemen were caught in an avalanche in the Ardeche.

A soldier died and four were injured when an avalanche swept them away during a training exercise in the Alps near Bramans.

In Australia, a man was killed and a thousand homes destroyed when cyclone Winifred struck the north Queensland coastal areas; in Tiencan, Algeria, four children were killed when a chimney collapsed in their classroom during a windstorm; and in Peru, at least twenty people died when the flooding River Tambo swept away the village of Maranchari.

Letter from Mexico City

Iron bars do not a prison make...

A year ago this week, a Mexican drug gang kidnapped an undercover American narcotics agent, hammered an ice-pick into his skull and killed him. The drug boss accused of ordering the killing now languishes in a Mexico City jail in what a fellow prisoner describes as "five-star luxury".

The US-bound heroin and marijuana trafficking of 35-year-old Rafael Caro Quintero is said by sources in Washington to have yielded a turn-over of one billion dollars during the 18 months before his capture.

Caro's cell is carpeted and has its own bathroom. He has a television and a video-cassette player, a refrigerator, a stove and a manservant.

The manservant, whom he calls "mi nino", or "my boy" - is a good cook, one of whose duties is to prepare meals for the Zapata-moustachioed druglord and his frequent guests.

Caro's wife visits him inside his cell once a fortnight but, as the prison guards enjoy telling you, an assortment of elegant "lady friends" come on visits most days of the week.

The plush prison existence of Mexico's most famous Mafia boss has caused outrage among American officials. The head of an anti-drugs US congressional delegation which visited Mexico recently, Mr Charles Rangel, said he had been informed that Caro was allowed regularly out of prison for nights out in expensive Mexico City restaurants.

Mr Rangel gave as an example a wild party Caro is supposed to have attended recently in a luxury hotel to celebrate his birthday.

The Mexican authorities have denied Mr Rangel's claim but - as one lawyer here has remarked - in such a half-hearted manner as to leave room for doubt.

What is apparently certain is that at any given moment Caro will have several thousand dollars worth of cash with him in his cell.

This he used to dispense favours among his fellow-

prisoners - who for the most part idolize him - and, more important, among the prison guards. He pays three senior guards 50,000 pesos, or £78 a day each to turn a blind eye to his more extravagant indulgences.

Caro is not Mexico's only prisoner VIP. The former head of the country's state-owned oil company, for example, was imprisoned nearly three years ago.

He too has frequent female visits, a limousine that draws up to his prison gates with gourmet meals and a tennis pro sent in to help him sharpen up his backhand.

"One would have thought a Mexican prison would be a terrible place," said Mr Rangel, "but it isn't if you have money."

Mr Rangel, however, is doing the Mexican prison system an injustice. Some jails are indeed a nightmare but as a rule the system is remarkably benign.

Cases have been reported of American and Canadian prisoners, repatriated to complete their sentences in their own countries, who have then asked to be sent back to their Mexican jails.

All prisoners are allowed intimate, undisturbed moments with the opposite sex. In the courtyard of one Mexico City prison there is a large block with curtained windows, outside which a large notice reads: "Visitas Intimas".

Other types of sport are also available to the inmates of Mexico City prisons. Football is taken very seriously. Every year the inter-prison football cup arouses great excitement among prisoners and prison officials alike.

One prison governor has an impressive display of trophies on his sideboard. Proudly he explains his prisoners have consistently won the championship in recent years because the manager of the team is a Swiss - long-term prisoner who, in the 1950s, was a member of his country's national team.

John Carlin

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visit HMS Brazen in the Port of London, 12 noon.

The Prince of Wales, Vice Patron, The British Council, attends a meeting of the Board of the Council, 10 Spring Gardens, SW1, 1.00.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother visits HOTELYMPIA 1986, the International Hotel and Catering Exhibition, Olympia, 11.30.

Talks, lectures

Eighteenth-century upholstery fabrics by Inogen Stewart, 12; and Ceramics II, by Gillian Darby, 1.15; Victoria & Albert Museum.

Back to the Beginning: Darwinism by Ernest Lucas, London Institute for Contemporary

Christianity, St Peter's Church, Vere Street, W1, 1.10.

Life in the Dark, by Joyce Pope, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, 3.

Reynolds and Rembrandt, by Martin Postle, Goldsmiths' Theatre, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street (off Gower Street), WC1, 6.15.

The limitations of dentistry, by Dr. A. Sheilham, University College London, Chemistry Auditorium, Christopher Ingham Laboratories, Gordon St, WC1, 5.30.

Millicent Fawcett: constitutional suffragist, by Joyce Ansell, City Temple, Holborn Viaduct, EC1, 7.30.

Charles Gittins memorial lecture by David Hargreaves, Taliesin Centre for the Arts, University College of Swansea, 7.30.

Neagu, University College London, Darwin Theatre, Gower St, WC1, 1.20.

French and English 13th century manuscripts, by Penelope Wallis, The British Library, Seminar Room, Great Russell Street, WC1, 12.30.

German expressionism, by Anna Moskwa, Tate Gallery, Millbank, 1.

Computing, then and now, by John Stevenson, Science Museum, SW7, 1.

Concert by the London Sinfonietta, Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.45.

Organ recital by Robert Jones, St Lawrence Jewry, 1. Cello recital by Faye Clinton, Chichester Cathedral, 1.10.

Concert by Chris Barber's Jazz Band, South Hill Park, Bracknell, 8.

Concert by Salford College of Technology Brass Ensemble, Salford University (Peel Hall) 12.35.

Concert by City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Birmingham Town Hall, 7.30.

Concert by Caroline Dale (cello) and Piers Lane (piano), Sam Newsom Music Centre, Boston, Lincoln, 7.30.

Concert by Cambridge Baroque Soloists, Christ's College Chapel, Cambridge, 8.30.

Organ recital by Mark Shepherd, Bristol Cathedral, 1.15.

Concert by Ian Gardner, Andrew Thomson and the George W. Welch Ensemble, British Music Information Centre, 10, Stratford Place, W1, 7.30.

Concert by Chantal Hughes, Elizabeth Robinson and Sui Choo Yeh (piano), King's Hall, Newcastle, 1.10.

Concert by Nigel Cliff (baritone) and James Vickers (piano), St Martin-in-the-Fields, 1.05.

John and Kathryn Lenehan piano recital, Royal Festival Hall, 12.30.

Concert by the Philharmonia Orchestra, Royal Festival Hall, 7.30.

Concert by Tallis Chamber Choir and Philharmonia Orchestra, Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.30.

Concert by London Symphony Orchestra, Barbican Concert Hall, 7.45.

General The General Synod of the Church of England, Church House, Dean's Yard, Westminster, 10 to 1; 2.30 to 7.

Parliament today Commons: Housing and Planning Bill, second reading. Lords: Prevention of Oil Pollution Bill, report stage; Local Government Bill, second reading; Outer Space Bill, second reading.

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ended 28TH JAN 86

- 1 EastEnders (Thu/Sat) 21.00
- 2 EastEnders (Tue/Sun) 20.50
- 3 The Two Ronnies 13.45
- 4 Les and Daphne Laughter Show 7.25
- 5 Woman (Fri) 13.15
- 6 The Good Life 13.15
- 7 News, Sport, Weather (Sat) 21.00
- 8 News, Sport, Weather (Sat) 21.00
- 9 Don't Wipe Up 12.05
- 10 Don't Wipe Up 12.05

ITV

- 1 Coronation Street (Mon) Granada 17.00
- 2 Coronation Street (Wed) Granada 17.35
- 3 Wish You Were Here (Mon/Wed) 17.35
- 4 Duty Free Yorkshire 14.20
- 5 Surprise, Surprise LWT 12.70
- 6 The Price is Right 13.45
- 7 The Bill Thomas 13.30
- 8 This is Your Life Thomas 13.30
- 9 The Price is Right 13.45
- 10 Coronation Street (Tue) Granada 17.00

BBC2

- 1 Forty Minutes 8.15
- 2 That Touch of Mink 6.25
- 3 Yes, Prime Minister 6.50
- 4 Grange Hill 6.15
- 5 The Price is Right 13.45
- 6 Pot Black 9.10
- 7 Dead Heat 4.35
- 8 The Price is Right 13.45
- 9 The Bob Morrison Show / Star Trek 4.05
- 10 The Bob Morrison Show / Star Trek 4.05

Channel 4

- 1 Brookside (Tue/Sat) 5.00
- 2 Brookside (Mon/Sat) 5.40
- 3 Comic Strip Presents... Dirty Movie 5.25
- 4 Treasure Hunt 5.00
- 5 Raggy Wren 4.10
- 6 Supermarket Sweep 3.55
- 7 In the Heart of the Shark 3.50
- 8 Countdown (Wed) 3.40
- 9 The Price is Right 13.45
- 10 Countdown (Thu) 3.30

Breakfast television: The average weekly figures for audiences at peak times (with figures in parentheses showing the number of people who viewed for at least three minutes):

BBC1: Breakfast Time: Mon to Fri 13.1-1.10

TV-am: Good Morning Britain: Mon to Fri 13.1-1.10

Sun 17 (12.5)

Breakfast: Audience Research Board. Viewing figures in millions

Tower Bridge

Tower Bridge will be lifted today at approximately 9.15am.

Snow Reports

Depth (cm) Conditions Off Runs to resort Weather (Spm) °C

AUSTRIA

Igis 25 75 good heavy worn sun 3

New snow needed

St Anton 110 310 good varied good fine -10

FRANCE

Sesfeld 90 140 good varied good fine 3

Firm base, good skiing

Isola 200 155 200 good powder good cloud -9

Excellent snow on all runs

La Plagne 165 180 good powder good sun 0

Excellent skiing

Megève 110 190 good powder good fair 2

SWITZERLAND

Andersmatt 100 220 good varied good fair 2

Good snow on all pistes

Grindelwald 80 130 good powder good fine -1

Good in all areas

Mürren 100 150 good powder good fair -1

Superb skiing, all runs open

Villars 80 125 good crust good fine 1

PISTES

Zermatt 150 250 powder powder good cloud 1

All runs closed due to too much snow

ITALY

Courmayeur 100 150 good good good snow 1

Good skiing on piste

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, U refers to lower slopes and U to upper, and art to artificial. These denote Sats figures.

Roads

Wales and West M4: Delays between junctions 22 and 23 (Chepstow and Major); eastbound hard shoulder closed and outside lane westbound closed. M5: Only outside lane in use northbound at junction 25 (Taunton); reconstruction work. A381: Temporary traffic lights in Totnes, Devon, at junction with B381 Plymouth road.

The North: M61 Blackpool Bridge (junction M61/M6): Construction of new motorway link on M671 at Walton summit; left hand lane closure on both N and southbound carriageways. M18: Full closure of Doncaster to Sheffield link road, S Yorkshire; diversion due to work on Morthe Hall Bridge.

Scotland: M74: Northbound carriageway closed N of access to Blackwood; contraflow on southbound. A832: Road closed at Liske, Grampian, E of Laide, off peak hours for improvements; lengthy diversions. A73: Single line traffic and traffic lights on Bellside Bridge, N of Newmans; various lane closures.

The pound

Australia \$ Bank 2.38
Austria Sch 2.38
Belgium Fr 2.38
Canada Cdn 1.29
Denmark Kr 16.56
France Fr 6.55
Germany DM 2.36
Hong Kong \$ 1.15
Ireland Ir£ 0.78
Italy Lit 2036.00
Japan Yen 237.60
New Zealand \$ 1.29
Norway Kr 4.76
Portugal Esc 200.48
Spain Ptas 166.64
Sweden Kr 4.66
Switzerland Fr 2.36
USA \$ 1.06
Yugoslavia Dn 100.00

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC.

London: The FT Index closed down 5.7 at 1155.3.

Lighting-up time

London 5.25 pm to 7.03 am
London 5.25 pm to 7.18 am
Manchester 5.27 pm to 7.18 am
Preston 5.51 pm to 7.21 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud; L, low; H, high; F, Fahrenheit.

Times world-wide

New York in London is 7 am in New York, 4 am in San Francisco, 3 am in Tokyo, 11 pm in Canberra, 2 pm in Johannesburg, 4 pm in United Arab Emirates, 3 pm in Moscow, 5 pm in Hong Kong.

Portfolio

Portfolio - how to play

Monday's share news: your daily

add these figures to determine

if your total indicates the published

Weather forecast

A very cold E airstream will persist

6 am to midnight

London, SE, central S, SW, NW England, East Angles, Midlands, Cheshire, Lancs, NW Scotland, District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow: Mainly dry, a few snow flurries; winds E or NE moderate or fresh; max temp 3C (39F).

SE, central S, SW, NW Scotland, Angles, Orkney, Shetland, Northern Ireland: Mainly dry, a few snow flurries; winds E or NE moderate or fresh; max temp 3C (39F).

Thursday: Staying very cold, perhaps snow in southern and central areas on Thursday.

Friday: Mainly dry, a few snow flurries; winds E or NE moderate or fresh; max temp 3C (39F).

Saturday: Mainly dry, a few snow flurries; winds E or NE moderate or fresh; max temp 3C (39F).

Sunday: Mainly dry, a few snow flurries; winds E or NE moderate or fresh; max temp 3C (39F).

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Times world-wide

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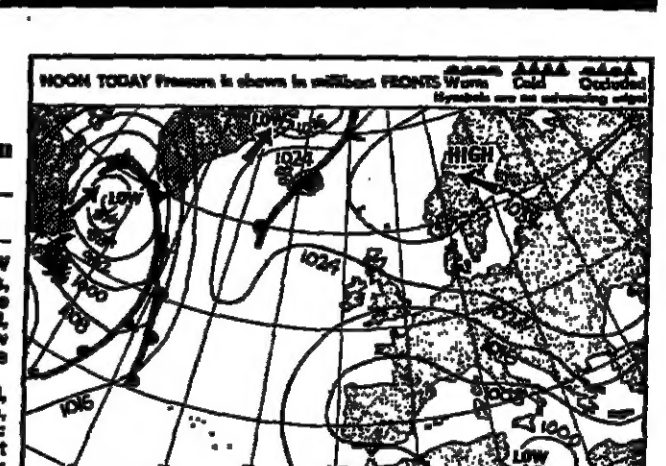
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if your total indicates the published



High Tides

Today

London Bridge 6.25 AM, 6.51 PM

Aberdeen 6.50 AM, 6.51 PM

Belfast 6.50 AM, 6.51 PM

Birmingham 6.50 AM, 6.51 PM

Bristol 6.50 AM, 6.51 PM

Cardiff 6.50 AM, 6.51 PM

Edinburgh 6.50 AM, 6.51 PM

Glasgow 6.50 AM, 6.51 PM

Leeds 6.50 AM, 6.51 PM

Liverpool 6.50 AM, 6.51 PM

Manchester 6.50 AM, 6.51 PM

Newcastle 6.50 AM, 6.51 PM

Nottingham 6.50 AM, 6.51 PM

Oxford 6.50 AM, 6.51 PM

Sheffield 6.50 AM, 6.51 PM

Southampton 6.50 AM, 6.51 PM

Stirling 6.50 AM, 6.51 PM

Swansea 6.50 AM, 6.51 PM

Torquay 6.50 AM, 6.51 PM

Wolverhampton 6.50 AM, 6.51 PM

Wrexham 6.50 AM, 6.51 PM

Yarmouth 6.50 AM, 6.51 PM

Zetland 6.50 AM, 6.51 PM

High Tides</